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Rift shakes Palestinian alliance

DAMASCUS (R) — Two groups of a Palestinian alliance opposed to the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace deal have condemned each other, threatening to split the coalition. The Marxist wing of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) led by Nayef Hawatmen issued a statement on Sunday accusing the Islamic fundamentalist group Hamas of making unacceptable offers to Israel and of blocking alliance meetings. The DFLP statement also accused Hamas of trying to dominate the alliance's leadership and of claiming responsibility for attacks against Israelis which it said were carried out by DFLP or other fighters. A Hamas official described the DFLP accusations as "totally false" and said a full statement would be issued later. "The DFLP calls upon brothers in Hamas 10 stop making vague and deluded proposals which negatively affect our opposition to the PLO-Israel agreement," the DFLP statement said.

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Hadid visits Doha

AMMAN (Petra) - Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayef Al Hadid left for Doha Sunday on a five-day working visit to Qatar for talks with senior Qatari officials on bilateral relations and cooperation. In a departure statement, Mr. Hadid said the talks would be a continuation of the talks His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has beld there two months ago on cooperation agreements in the economic, cultural and labour fields. He also said he would discuss arrangements of a forthcoming visit to Jordan by Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jassim Al Thani.

Appeal issued for Bosnians

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO) Sunday stressed Jordan's support for the humanitarian cause of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and appealed to the Jordanian public to extend every possible support to assist the people of the troubled area. In a statement issued Sunday to mark the Day of Solidarity with the People of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the JHCO called on Jordanians to provide support for the relief and aid programmes carried out by the organisation to aid the Muslim people there.

Power fault caused Safeway fire

AMMAN (Petra) - Interior Minister Salameh Hammad said Sunday fire which engulied the Safeway stores earlier this month was caused by an electrical fault. Mr. Hammad said the findings of a special task force formed to investigate the fire headed by Civil Defence Department Director Afif Al Ghoul had confirmed that the fire resulted from an electrical spark. The task force's report was presented to the minister Sunday.

Husseini in Riyadh

RIYADH (AFP) - Faisal Husseini, head of Fateh in the occupied West Bank, arrived here Sunday for his first visit to Saudi Arabia since the 1991 Gulf war. An official accompanying Mr. Husseini said he would hold talks with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sand Al Faisal. In August Mr. Husseini met Prince Faisal in Cairo to discuss the Sandi financial contribution to Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

Pakistan probes israeli contact report

ISLAMABAD (R) - Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Sunday she had ordered an investigation into reports that Pakistani diplomats had been in secret contact with Israel for a possible recognition of the Jewish state. She told reporters that she had asked the foreign ministry to hold the inquiry to check if any Pakistani diplomat had contacted Israel after local newspapers quoted the Israeli sador to India as saying there had been such contacts. Ms. Bhutto; who took office last October, denied knowledge of any contacts with Israel and said: "We cannot think of recognising Israel without consulting the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) and the Islamic

Syria urges Israel to dismantle settlements

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria urged Israel Sunday to dismantle settlements and pull out settlers from the occupied Goian Heights as a peace gesture. "Dismantling Israeli settlements in the Golan and other Arab lands is an inseparable part of the elements of a just and comprehensive peace," the official daily Tishreen said. It said that such a move by Israel would be an example of the kind of confidence-building measures the Jewish state wants Arab countries to undertake.

Crown Prince rejects talk of Jordanian-Palestinian 'rift'

Prince Hassan outlines broad vision of peace based on sovereignty, rights of refugees and cohesion

By Saad Silawi Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday questions raised here in Jordan over Jordanian and Palestinian identities were raised by those who imagine that there was a rift in the Jordanian society.
In an interview with the Un-

ited Arah Emirates (UAE) television of Abu Dhabi and the Jordan Times and the Arabic daily Al Ra'i, Prince Hassan ridiculed those who question the origins of Jordanians and stressed that he believed in national unity of all citizens regardless of their origins.

"It would be irrational for Jordan, which talks about a Great Arab Revolt, and development movements, to contradict its historic message," he

In reply to a question on the prospect of achieving Jordanian-Palestinian confederation after Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian lands, Prince Hassan asked: "Confederation

with whom?"
He said it was unreasonable to talk about such relations unless Jordan and the Palestinians develop a practical relationship from the base to the

gestions that Jordanian-Palestinian relations were cool, saying these relations cannot be judged by using such terms. He pointed that opening hranches for Jordanian banks in the Israeh-occupied West Bank

By Ayman Al Safadi

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Lower

House of Parliament Monday

added the city of Jerusalem to

the governorates where a court

of appeals could be estab-lished. The move came after

leftist, centrist and Islamist de-

puties warned of the political

implications inherent in a 1989

draft law that cancels the

establishment of the court in

The House voted down the

recommendation of its Judici-

exclusion of Jerusalem from

the cities in which courts of

appeals could be established as

the draft temporary law on the

establishment of courts of

By Mariam M. Shahin

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Ac-

tion Front (IAF), Jordan's

most powerful political party. Sunday announced a new 120-

member Majlis Al Shura,

which acts as the party's con-

sultative council, after elec-

tions which saw hardliners los-

By Sunday evening I17 members in 19 of the 20 elec-

toral districts had been chosen.

The so-called doves within the

IAF, the political wing of the

Muslim Brotherhood move-

ment, appeared to have won

the vast majority of the seats.

The elections of three LAF

members in the Aqaba district

were not yet complete as the

The new council includes a

woman for the first time since

the Brotherhood was founded

Nawai Al Faouri, 37, a

school director, is from the

moderate camp. Her nomina-

tion underlined the front's

effort to put on a moderate

Jordan Times went to print.

ing ground.

in 1946.

ary Committee to approve the

the Holy City.



was in response to a Palestinian demand in 1986 and had nothing to do with developments witnessed in the past few

On Palestinian refugees in South Lehanon and a Lehanese announcement that they should leave before the end of the Middle East peace process and whether Jordan. was ready to receive them, the Crown Prince declared that Jordan does not accept solving

a problem at its own expense. Expressing hope that the peace process would resume in clearer manner, he voiced belief that Arab-American summits serve only the league He also reiterated that there would be no peace or stability in the region without respect for human rights and human

He denied that Jordan and Israel had reached an initial

appeal for 1989 had stipulated.

Majali agreed with the conten-

tion of the Islamic Action

Front (IAF) members of the

Judiciary Committee and other

deputies who demanded that

the draft law retain item (a) of

Article six of a 1952 law. The

article in the draft law had

IAF members of the Judici-

ary Committee had protested

the decision of the committee

to approve the draft law as

presented by the government because it would "create a

legal vaccum, leaving the Jew-

ish court as the alternative." in

They also said that Jordan's

1988 decision to sever adminis-

trative and legal links with the

Known "hawks" within the IAF failed to win seats in the

eonneil, incloding Lower

House of Parliament deputies

and IAF members Abdul

Munem Ahn Zant, Badr Riati

The failure of the three men

to win seats despite the large

number of voters they received

from the electorate in Nov. 8

legislative elections marked yet

another chapter in what

appears to be a transformation

of the political strategies that

the IAF as a party and the

Muslim Brotherhood as a so-

cial movement are pursuing.

At a press conference Sun-

day, IAF Secretary-General

Ishaq Al Farhan rejected the

notion that his party contained "doves" and "hawks." but said

that IAF members are "dovish

or hawkish on certain issues."

Younger and more revolu-

tionary members of the

Brotherhood are trying to in-fluence the political body of

their movement, severely cur-

tailing the IAF's moves to

streamline the administrative

and hureaucratic structure of

the party.

and Theeh Abdullah.

Jerusalem.

Hardliners lose ground

in IAF's Majlis Al Shura

excluded 1989 Jerusalem.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam

House retains Jerusalem in

law on courts of appeals

two sides did was to sign the agenda for peace talks.

The Crown Prince said Jordan was not looking for an economie solution to political problems, reiterating that political problems should be tackled before economie ones.

In reply to accusations that Islam is the enemy of Western civilisation, the Prince said that be. as a member of the Hashemite family which prides itself in its origins from the Prophet Mohammad, cannot but belong to Islam "and I am extremist in defending Islam."

Prince Hassan commended a call by UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan for Arab solidarity and said Jordan received the reconciliation call with appreciation and admiration.

Following are major excerpts from the Crown Prince's comments during the inter-

"Concerning the quest for a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict and its root Arab-israeli confect and its rool cause, the Palestinian problem, Jordan was always in the lead in adiouncing its principled stands and affirming them through all the stages of the 25 months of negotiations since the Madrid conference launched the talks and the past few weeks since August and after the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of

"It was clear that the Jordanian agenda, which was not an agreement inasmuch as an arrangement of topics listed on the discussions, was a practical expression when the government approved it. This expresses the sincere will to support the Palestinian stand in a

West Bank "does not cancel

article one of the Constitution

which bans the ceding of any

They said that keeping the

mention of Jerusalem in the

law would not commit Jordan

to setting up the court but that

in would be a legal and historic-

al document for Arah rights in

now, the government can

establish courts of appeals in

Amman, Irhid, Maan and

While Deputy Bassam Had-

dadin said the draft law deals

with the judiciary authority in

Jordan and "Jerusalem affairs are

part of Palestinian affairs,"

(Continued on page 5)

The younger members ques-

tion what they consider the

timid approach the IAF is tak-

ing towards basic Brotherhood

teachings, in particular Jor-

dan's acceptance of Interna-

tional Monetary Fund (IMF)-

prescribed reforms, and the

Kingdom's participation in the

Dr. Farhan said Sunday:

"Ideology and pragmatism are

He stressed that IAF mem-

bers "were only human and

thus have human faults" but

were not at odds with each

Last week's resignation of

six members of the party's 17-

member executive committee

was "null and void," Dr.

Farhan said. Except for the

former Brotherhood spokes-

man and leading executive

member Ziad Abu Ghanimeh,

none of those who had submit-

ted their resignations boycot-

Dr. Farhan told reporters

Sunday that the group had

contained the crisis, which he

described as a result of internal

(Continued on page 3)

ted the Shura elections.

Arab-Israeli peace process.

sometimes not compatible."

As the amended law stands

Jerusalem.

part of (Jordanian land).

practical way. Support for the Palestinian and the Arab identity there in the occupied territories and for the Palestinian national decision is the most Jordan can offer in these difficult circumstances. Bot when we talk about a regional vision and the role of countries io practising their sovereignty we cannot talk about solutions and agreements of use and coment unless they tackle priorities first, such as the issues of sovereignty, borders, refugees and water. Here rises the call for discussing these issues in working groups within the framework of the multilateral talks.

"We hope that the hilateral negotiations would resume in the first or second month of next year with some clarity on the part of the negotiating parties. There is no meaning for renewing the en-deavours if the goal of the negotiations is not targetted by these parties, and the goal for lordan is very clear - and that is solving problems in a comprehensive man-

When we talk about Jordan's sovereign rights we talk about the problem of refugees and their right to be repatriated or to return. But the Israeli side affirms that the repatriation issue is not an Israeli

"When we talk about refugees we talk about the displaced and the exiles and the human waves which entered Jordan in 1948, 1967 and esently in , 1991.

We then talk about a comprehensive vision of human resources in the region, it is difficult to solve ues hilaterally or trilaterally and there should be a regional look to be able to talk about water and water consumers, and the world should be reminded of the human context, and that is what I told President Clinton when we

(Continued on page 5)

Hamas offers conditional truce

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) - The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, offered Sunday to hait attacks against Israelis if Israel agreed to withdraw all its forces from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Stop all manifestations of violence from the Israeli side and ... the Palestinian side will stop all the manifestations," Mahmoud Al Zahar, a Gazabased surgeon and leader of Hamas, said on Israel army radio.

It was an unusual offer given Hamas' insistence thus far that it would not lay down arms against Israel until the Jewish state is supplanted by an Isla-

mic one. Dr. Zahar's remarks also were the latest in a series of indications that despite its opposition to the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord, Hamas was moving towards accommodation with Israel. A Gaza military commander revealed earlier this month he had held closed-door meetings

with Hamas leaders. Dr. Zahar was among 400 activists Israel expelled to Lebanon in December 1992 in retaliation for the slayings of six soldiers blamed on Hamas. He was also among the 197 of those exiles who were repatriated Dec. 15, in the wake of Mideast peace moves.

In his unusual radio interview, Dr. Zahar reiterated demands published in a Hamas leaflet issued on Friday, including an Israeli withdrawal and releasing Palestinians pris-

The leaflet said Israel had to leave the occupied territories within a year. The peace accord calls for a limited withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho by April 1993 when Palestinians would be granted limited self-rule or autonomy.

"And I think if the Israeli

(Continued on page 5)



Israeli soldiers Sunday search a young Palestinian in Gaza (AFP photn)

Self-rule negotiations resume today with optimistic notes

الأدطاب الجدى والنكرى مضهرا متخلف

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said Sunday he hoped for positive answers from Israel when talks resume in Cairo on Monday on disputes that have delayed Israel's momentous withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

"I hope to receive tomorrow positive answers from Israel on the questions we have put to them in Oslo and Paris," Mr. Arafat told reporters between meetings with Egyptian Fore-

ign Mmister Amr Musa and President Hosni Mubarak. Mr. Arafat declined to say what questions had been put to

Shaath, said ideas raised by Palestinians during intensive talks in Oslo and Paris over the last two weeks concerned the main disputes blocking agreement on the withdrawal: The size of Jericho, control of border crossings between Egypt and Gaza and Jordan and Jericho, and security of Jewish

settlements in Gaza. In a concession to Palestinians, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told his cahinet Sunday that Israel was ready to donhle the size of the autonomous enclave around Jericho, Israeli

radios said. The report came on the eve of a meeting Monday in Cairo between Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Mr. Arafat's top aide, Mahmoud Abbas. They were to make a third attempt in nine days to reach a compromise to clear the way for a Rabin-Arafat summit and the start of Israeli withdrawal.

Environment Minister Yossi

Sarid, a member of the Israeli negotiating team, told Israel Radio after the cabinet session that "if we don't make meaningful progress in this round in Cairo, it will not be a very good sign for the negotia-

Gad Ben Ari, Mr. Rabin's spokesman, told the Associated Press that "while we strongly hope that there will be significant progress (Monday), we will give it additional time if needed.

Cabinet ministers, speaking after their weekly Sunday meeting, said Israel would insist on keeping control over border crossings from Egypt and Jordan into Jericho and the Gaza Strip, the two auto omous regions that are to be run by the PLO.

The size of the Jericho region and control over the border crossings have been the two sticking points in the Israel-PLO negotiations on implementing Palestinian auton-

Mr. Rahin has said that even if the implementation agreement was signed three or four weeks after the original Dec. 13 deadline, the two sides could still meet the April 13 target date for concluding troop withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Mr. Ben-Ari said Israel would not agree to any compromise that could endanger

ts security. Israel Radio, reporting from the cahinet session, said Israel would offer to withdraw from about 50 square kilometres, nearly double its opening offer of 27 square kilometres, that

included the town of Jericho

and two adjacent refugee camps.

However, Mr. Rabin told the ministers that Israel will not agree to let the autonomous region reach the Dead Sea to the South or include any Jewish settlements, said Trade Minister Micha Harish.

The Haaretz daily said Mr. Peres had offered the Palestinians a compromise under which the area between the autonomous region and the Dead Sea would be used for joint Israeli-Palestinian tourism and business ventures. The daily quoted Nissim Zvili, a leading figure in Mr. Rabin's Labour Party, as saying Mr. Arafat leaned towards acceptg the offer. Mr. Zvili met las week with Mr. Arafat.

Dr. Shaath told Reuters in Cairo: "Every time we meet. we achieve a little hit of progress and we then look ahead for new ideas to break the deadlock."

Dr. Shaath added that on the border crossings, "Israel, turned from the principles to modalities."

"We have put suggestions about the modalities to ensure our security and independence and at the same time ensure

Israel's security," he said.
Dr. Shaath said Israel was still "very hesitant" about a PLO proposal to station international forces on the cros-

He said troops could come from the United States: Europe, Egypt and Morocco. "They are reticent in accepting any form of international presence and are shifting their

feet about turning the principle

into a modality.

Gunmen free all hostages in Russian kidnap before flight

MOSCOW (Agencies) --Masked gunmen freed their last two teenage hostages and a driver on Sunday and flew on from Mineralniye Vody in Southern Russia still holding the two helicopter pilots, a government official said.

The helicopter was heading southeast. The four kidnappers had wanted to refuel at Makhachkala, capital of the semi-autonomous republic of Dagestan, for the next leg of their planned journey to Iran. The spokesman for Russia's

state committee on emergencies gave no further details. ITAR-TASS news agency said it would take about two hours to fly to Makhachkala, which lies on the Caspian Sea southeast of Mineralnive Vody.

Interfax news agency quoted an emergency committee official as saying two helicopters with members of the elite 'Spetsnaz' anti-terrorist forces aboard were shadowing the kidnappers' craft.

The four masked men took their teenage hostages on Thorsday in a raid on a school in the town of Rostov in southern Russia. They had made clear their

intention to reach Iran with stops in Dagestan - where they had promised to release the schoolboys - and in the ex-Soviet republic of Azerbaijan's capital Baku, where they

Chase launched on ground

FOUR GUNMEN at the centre of a four-day-old hostage drama released their last hostages — two pilots — Sunday and fled after the helicopter they were travelling in landed in southern Russia, the head of the government press service said.

ITAR-TASS news agency said interior ministry forces freed the aircraft's twn pilots. "Special (interior ministry) troops are now conducting an operation to arrest the terrorists." Valentin Sergeyev added on central television. Earlier Sunday, the endent television station NTV said the gunmen had fled, pursued by interior ministry troops. ITAR-TASS news agency said the helicopter had landed briefly near Khassaviurt, in the southern Russian republic of Daghestan, then flew on to a site near airport in the suburbs of Makhachkala, Daghestan's capital 80 kilometres away. It was there that the gunmen left the aircraft and fled for an unknown destination, the agency

had said they would free the driver. They have pledged to let the two pilots go only when they

Visibility down to 60 metres

forced them to wait a day. A first attempt to leave Mineralniye Vody overnight failed and the helicopter was forced to

Under an agreement reached earlier with the four gunnien, and now apparently abandoned, the two schoolboys and hus driver were to be released in exchange for fuel and negotiator Valentina Petrenko in Makhachkala.

They would then fly on to Baku, where Petrenko, personal envoy of Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, would be freed before the hostage-takers flew onto the Iranian capital. ITAR-TASS said. A photographer who left

Mineralniye Vody on Sunday morning quoted security officials as saying that the four beavily armed kidnappers had made "no mistakes so far,"

They had planned their operation with military precision and brought along equipment to check for forged hanknotes.

The identities of the gunmen, who have said they are carrying the virus that causes AIDS remains a mystery, although an artist's impression of one of the men was broadcast hy Russian Television Saturday evening.

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Hamas fighters are Gaza's idols

By John West Reuter

OCCUPIED GAZA - They are the nearest thing Gaza has to pop stars. Young boys scrawl their names on walls. Parents name their children after them. They are immortalised in song.

Like all good pop stars, the militants of the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas live last and die young, going down in a blaze of glory, and taking with them as many Israelis as possible.

The outside world may never bave heard of Imad Akel, Zakaria Al Shurbajji or Hamed Al Qirnawi.

But across the slums and squalid refugee camps that cram 800,000 Palestinians into the Gaza Strip, their exploits are recorded on cassette tapes which capture their unique status as Muslim religious martyrs, nationalist beroes and

pop idols. The recordings are available at most street corners.

"In the name of God the Compassionate the Merciful," invokes the singer of the Jabalya Martyrs Band, accom-panied by synthesised drum-ming, "the band offers you this tape under the title 'Commandoes of Qassam," we hope you'll like it."

A street seller named Ahmad blasts the songs on a portable music system just metres from an Israeli army post in Jabalya camp, the cradle of the Palesti-

nian uprising to 1987.
"Do you want to buy religious songs?" he asks. "These are the latest."

Political analysts speak of the rise of Hamas as the triumpb of Muslim fundamentalism, disillusionmeot with perceived corruption and authoritarianism in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), or the inevitable logic of desperate poverty and foreign occupatioo.

At street level, Hamas and other activists are warriors fighting an epic struggle, the pride of Gaza amid the poverty and anarchy that prevail in the

While the PLO negotiates with Israel, Hamas, the PLO's chief rival, is winning to brutal terms that count for many Gazans. Hamas has claimed 13 of the 20 killings of Israelis

It rejects the peace deal. Israel's planned withdrawal from the Gaza Strip is only a first step in the Hamas rule book. The fundamentalist group is devoted to Israel's destruction.

The songs are part of a culture of warrior heroes, underpinned by religious faith, that has sprung up in the Strip where most other paths to achievement remain closed. Gaza has no rock singers, football wizzards or dashing young

Glory is more important than life and death — and glory comes through fighting.
"Imad Akel opens his jaws to strike, the Nazi enemy is on guard," sings the band, comparing Akel to a lion. "The commandoes kidnap (Israeli) soldiers and kill them."

"Saleh Othman's eye does not sleep. He tightens his helt on the day of the operation...he took the weapon and said goodbye to his loved ones and made the greatest story with his blood," the singers chant.

Mothers are expected to be proud, not to grieve for fallen sons. "Come, mother, hring everyone and see his

Most people in Gaza know the names of dozens of "martyrs" and colourful stories of how they died.

By cootrast, many would be hard-pressed to name more than a couple of the PLO officials who present them politically in the negotiations with Israel.

"That's where Zakaria was martyred about six months ago." says Iyad, a student of about 20, pointing to a now demolished tenement block. "Didn't you see it? There was a crew from Israeli TV there and they filmed it - the first time an operation has been

"He killed a soldier and then stayed to cover lour others who ran away while the army fired. You should have seen him. he was huge, like, a body-builder. The Kalashnikov looked like a toy in his hands he was so big," added Iyad enthusiastically.

There are gruesome details to many stories. Zakaria was blown apart by a rocket and had to be picked up in pieces. I tioo, who himself has seen the is to take over security after an



Gaza's youth wait for jobs but with time in prison as only degree

By Acil Tabbara Agence France Presse

OCCUPIED GAZA - Gaza's youth are waiting for Palestinian autonomy to bring them jobs but the only qualification most of them have is time in

Around 75,000 residents, or 10 per cent of the occupied Gaza Strip's population, have done time since the intifada broke out in December 1987. according to Raji Surani, director of an Arab centre for

human rights.

Most of them have been under 22. For young men who meet in Gaza, the first question is often whether they have been jailed and in which camp. Rather tike

asking "whether did you go to

school?" In other parts of the

world. "The question of former prisoners is a big problem," admits Ihab Al Ashkar, a member of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat's Fatch facinside of an Israeli jail. Mr. Ashkar said around 40,000 young Gazans were former detainees, most of them unemployed and with a secon-

dary school certificate at best.
"We have proposed drawing up a training project for these youths, offering them computer courses, for example, to help them find jobs in the future," he said. "This is one of the main

challenges facing the future Palestinian authority" under the Sept. 13 autonomy deal signed by Israel and the PLO. Hatem Ferwana, who has spend four of his 22 years in prison for being a member of Fateh, firmly believe that self-

rule will bring employment. "I was jailed when I was 16 and so I couldo't carry on with my school education. All I know how to do is to paint cars

and I can't find a joh," he said. The job market in Gaza is saturated and 11,000 men have applied for 3,000 posts in a Palestinian police force, which

Israeli army withdrawal. But a high school degree is a must to join the police.

Unemployment is running at around 80 per cens in Gaza City, a huge shantytown where industries and services hardly exist, according to Mr. Surani.
Almost 6.000 Gazans are still in jail.

Some 85,000 Gazans worked in Israel before the Gulf war in 1991. But in three years, the number has fallen to 15,000 because of Israeli restrictions on entry into the country.

In any case, former prisoners are automatically banned from working in Israel. They are also not allowed to travel and come back, except for rare

Like many other prisoners, Mr. Ferwana used his time inside the Ketziot camp in southern Israel to learn Hebrew from his cell-mates.

"We call the detention camps universities," said Sami Sawafiri, 23, who spent 30 months in jail for belonging to

when the Israelis arrested thousands of youths, we decided that their stay in prison should not be a waste of time," Mr. sawafiri said.

He said daily programmes were organised and each prisoner taught the others what he knew: Language courses, training in sports, political discussions and other activities.

Detained for the first time when he was 18 and the second time during his first year in university, where he was majoring in pharmacy, Mr. Sawafiri gave up bis studies.

Now, I'm just waiting and

hope that with autonomy we will have the chance to work." Another prison graduate, 26-year-old Nasr Fleyfel, who.

spent four and a half years in iail, is considered lucky for being accepted io the police force. But he no longer wants to join up. They seem to have lined us

up for traffic duty," said Mr. Fleyfel. He wanted to leave for good, but only after his best

Egypt — battle for the mosque

By Khaled Dawoud The Associated Press

CAIRO - From a mosque in 7th century Arabia, the Prophet Mohammad began spreading the faith of Islam. Today, Egypt's government is fighting to keep Muslim extremists from spreading re-volution from the mosque. In Cairo's sprawling Imbaba

district, once a militant stronghold, authorities have closed at least a dozen makeshift prayer centres crammed into hallways and alleys and run by the radical Al Gamaa Al-Isla-

miyah.
Throughout the country, the Ministry of Religous Endowments plans to take over more than 7,000 mosques that were controlled by extremist groups. many of whose members have fled or been jailed.

It's a battle for the soul of

Egypt. Islam pervades Egyptian life. In Cairo, the call to Friday noon prayers sounds from loudspeakers in every direction, drowning even the ubiquitous horn-booking. Prayer mats are spread across busy downtown streets to accommodate the faithful. More than 90 per cent of Egypt's 58 million people are Muslim.

In downtrodden areas like Imbaba, the fundamentalists seized on the people's traditiooal faith to implant a more adamant Islam. For the past two years, militants have waged a violent campaign to supplant the secular government with Islamic rule. More than 240 people killed in radical attacks or clashes with

But Abdul Ghaffar Mohammad, a resideot of Imbaba for IO years, said he believes the government is loosening the radicals' grip.
"The fall of the Islamic re-

public of Imbaba started the day the government took over the Gamaa's mosques," he

Mohammad Abdul Monem Saced, a political analyst at the Al Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, said the government's approach was astute but faced a major bar-

"The government is...controlling the message it conveys to the people," he said. "But the problem is that there will the Ministry of Endowment can control."

In fact, no one knows how many mosques there are in Egypt.

Cairo is known as the city of

1,000 minarets, but there are thousands of small, private mosques in addition to historic and official ones. The same is true throughout Egypt, wherethose who build mosques also get tax breaks.

Since mosques are exempted from the law requiring government permits for public gatherings, radicals had ample chance to spread their message in sermons and in talks with young meo after the five daily

Mr. Saced said that since the rise of the Islamic movement in the 1970s, militaots gathered recruits and made plans in mosques, and the Interior Ministry accuses "terrorists" of

storing weapons there, too.

Al Gamaa Al Islamiyab saw the mosque, as a way to build an alternative to the government. In Imbaba and other poor areas, it opened schools and clinics alongside mosques to serve people largely ignored

Imbaba, with a population of about 1.2 million, is inhabited mostly by poor southern Egyptians who came to Cairo lor jobs and a hetter life. It grew as a squatter area not officially recognised as part of the city and receiving almost

A year ago, with the radicals tightening their hold on Imbaba, the government sent in armoured personnel carriers and about I4,000 troops. They arrested more than 700 suspected leaders of Al Gamaa.

Now, the government is taking over the mosques, using graduates of state-funded Al Azhar Islamic University to replace the fiery preachers who railed against government cal-lousness. The mosque doors are closed after each prayer so radicals cannot gather.

But Sheril Wagdy, an 18-, year-old student from Imbaba, said the government-paid preachers will not tame the

anger of the young.
Wagdy said he went to the radicals' mosque as a place where I can learn the truth' instead of hearing platitudes from preachers at official mos-

Pollard does not regret spying for Israel

By James Rowley The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Despite a pending plea for clemency, from President Bill Clinton, convicted spy Jonathan Pollard has made statements indicating he does not feel remorse for passing U.S. sec-

rets to Israel. "Granted, I broke the law. But to tell you the truth, I'd rather be rotting in prison that sitting shiva (mourning) for the hundreds of thousands of Israelis who could have died because of my cowardice," Mr. Pollard was quoted as saying in the April 30 issue of the Jewish magazine, Sh'ma. The statements Mr. Pol-

lard has made in the past did not come to the attention of the news media until they were republished receotly by other Jewish publications. Mr. Pollard continued to embrace the statements in a June 1 letter from prison praising the Sh'ma article as the first piece that truly reflects my inner feelings." In the article, written by

Rabbi Avi Weiss, Mr. Pol-lard discussed his feelings about passing thousands of pages of top secret intelligence data to Israel, including satellite photos of Libyan anti-aircraft bases.

Before Mr. Pollard pleaded guilty and was sent-enced in 1987 to a life term, the former U.S. Navy civilian intelligence analyst told the judge in court papers that he was motivated by a helief that the Pentagon was withhold-ing valuable information that Israel needed to thwart its Arab enemies. .

"I could not just walk away from the intelligence embargo and pretend that it didn't exist. I had to act," the 39year-old Pollard, who is a Jew, was quoted as saying in the Sb'ma article.

These statements "show the guy is not remorseful and never has been," said Joseph Digenova, a Washington lawyer who as U.S. attorney Washington prosecuted

Mr. Pollard "doesn't" even meet the fundamental re-

Digenova said. "For anyone to seriously consider clemency for him is absolutely un-conscionable."

Mr. Pollard's clemency petition has been pending at the Justice Department for a year. Israel asked President Clinton earlier this year to free Mr. Pollard, who bas been in prison since his arrest in November 1985.

Mr. Clinton said this week that he expected to anoounce a decision soon. Deputy Attorney General

Philip Heymann is considering recommending that Mr. Clinton cut Mr. Pollard's sectence but require him to remain io prison for an unspecified number of years, according to administration officials who spoke on condi-

tioo of anonymity.

Mr. Pollard will be eligible in November 1995 to be considered for parole. But law enforcement officials say they do not think the U.S. Parole. Commission will release him at that time. Under federal law, Mr. Pollard must be released after serving 30

The State Department, and all other federal agencies that have an interest in the case, including the U.S. attorney's office, have all recommended against clemen-

Defence attorney Theodore B. Olson said Mr. Pollard's "story is consistent that he regrets what be did. He feels badly about the harm that was done."

Mr. Olson said that the action of Jewish publications in pickiog up last April's artide is "a distraction which is not constructive."

Mr. Weiss argued that Mr. Pollard's remarks do not in any way diminish the sincerity of his "deep and profound

Weiss' article goes on to say "Jonathan deeply regrets the tremendous cost of his actions," the cost to the bealth of his ex-wife. Anne, the cost to his marriage; the cost of this incarceration, the agony of isolation and the mental torture he has been forced to endure."

Settlers spar with visiting PLO official

By Said Ghazali The Associated Press

ON THE ROAD TO JERU-SALEM, Occupied West Bank — A visiting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) dignitary witnessed firsthand the fervor of some Israelis' opposition to the Palestinian autonomy accord Friday as he toured the occupied West Bank. "We live here in our couo-

try," settler Yoel Cooperman shouted at Afif Safieh, the PLO's envoy to London who is visiting family for Christmas.

Mr. Cooperman was one of some 50 settlers laying the cornerstone for a new settlement on a hill just outside East Jerusalem. Mr. Safieh remained stoic

as Mr. Cooperman, a thirtyish, U.S.-born resident of the nearby settlement of Maale Edumim, rushed to his car. "This was always my land, since I was born as a Jew," Mr. Cooperman said. Mr. Safieh did not understand. But his Hebrew-speak-

ing aide, Ibrahim Matar, en-

gaged the Israeli with taunts of "Go back to the United States."

hood of Pisgat Zeev north of Jerusalem, Mr. Safieh was approached by Rahamin Shamian, a 57-year-old Israeli construction worker, who advised him the Palestinians will cever control any part of Jerusalem. Israel claims the entire

city, while Palestinians want its eastern sector, seized by Israel in 1967 and later "annexed," as the capital of their envisaged future state. capital of Israel..for 4000 years." Mr. Shamian said.

salem?'

good day. should remove 280,000 Jews living on Palestinian land.

In the Jewish neighbour-

ty," said Mr. Safieb, 43-yearold political scientist.

"Jerusalem is the enternal

'How can you still want Jeru-Mr. Safieh moved away,

curtly wishing Mr. Shamian a He later told the AP Israel

His figure included some 150,000 Jewish residents of East Jerusalem who are not considered settlers by Israel. Israel usually puts the number of settlers at 130,000. "They should leave the settlements as part of the compensatioo that the Israeli state owes Palestinian socie-

His tour coincided with attempts to lay cornerstones at 72 sites settlers hope will eventually become fullfledged settlements.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israel Radio the government would not permit any new settlements. The item news agency said

soldiers were sent to several

of the sites and that the settlers agreed to disperse. No incidents were reported. The settlers have been at the forefront of right-wing oppositioo to the Israel-PLO

accord signed in September in Washington. The accord grants the Palestinians autonomy, first in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho and later in the entire West Bank. Implementation of the

accord, planned to begin last

week, is being delayed by

disagreement over several.

key issues.

Talks on the final settlemeot — involving thorny questions over borders and the ultimate fate of Jerusalem and the settlements are de-

layed until 1996. But many

Israelis are already raising

such issues. "We who came here to live in the heart of the country will find ourselves on the borders and..living in the shadows of coutinued terrorism," said righ-wing legislator Michael Eitan at a ground-breaking ceremony outside the Kochav Yair set-

Mr. Safieh termed the settlers' actions Friday "an msult to the international community..that fully supports an equitable, peaceful solution to the Israel-Palestinian con-

Mr. Safieh, a Belgian national who is visiting bis mother and sister in Jerusalem for a two-week Christmas vacation after some 25 years abroad, said he intended to settle here even-

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDER

JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

PRO	GRAMME TWO
17:30	Les Adventuriers de L'Espac
18:00	La Sreieme Dimense
t8:30	
	News in Frenc
19:15	The weekly sport magazin
19:30	News in Hebre
	News in Arab
20:30	Deli
22-00	Gloria Estephan in conce
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PRAYER TIMES

(Sunre) Duha Dhuhr

CHURCHES St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifleh. Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 62459tL

Church of the Annunciation Tel. De la Salle Church Tel. t61757 Terrasancta Church Tel: 622366 the Annunciation Tel. Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel. Catholic Church Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Tcl. 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amman International Church Tel. 652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328. eking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazarene Tel.675041

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Clouds will appear at various alti-tudes, scattered showers are expected/ in all parts of the Kingdom, winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba it will-be partly cloudy and scattered showers are expected, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Aqaba 22 Humidity readings; Amman 54 per cent. Aqaba 44 per **USEFUL TELEPHONE** NUMBERS **NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN: Dr. Mahmoud Hindi Nairoukh pharmacy 623672 Al Salam pharmacy 63n730
Yacoub pharmacy 64945 Shmersani pharmacy 6376601 Nairoujh pharmacy 624672 Dr. Favez Al Oadi Akquels pharmacy (—]

Find Control Centre 637111 Civil Defence Department 661111 Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341 Civil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Fire Brigade 891228 Blood Bank 775121 Hotel Complaints 605800 Price Complaints 66176 Water and Sewerage . 897467 Telephone Information (directory assistance) Repairs 623[0]
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661[0] ordan Television 773111 Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680[00 Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

RJ Flight Information 08-53200 Queen Alia Inll. Airport..... 08-53200 HOSPITALS

Shmetsani Hospital 669131 University Hispital 845845 Al-Muasher Hospital 6672279 The Islamic, Abdali 6641646 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777/01/3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26 7770013 Amal Hospital ZARQA: Zarqa Govt. Hospital [19]983323 Zarqa National Hospitul ... [19]98660 Ibu Sina Hospital [19]986732 Al Ilikma Modem Hospital [19]980732

.. 1033314111

Princess Haya Hospital

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Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 95:35 Damavous (RJ) 97:00 Jeddah (RJ) 16:45 New York. Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2) 09:35 Cuiro (MS) Khartnum (SD) Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF) Duhai (EM)
----- Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Fiights (Terminal 1).

. Beirui (RJ)

...... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ) 11:00 12:t5 Dhahran (RJ) Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
Duhai, Karachi (RJ) Al-Dahran (RJ) Abu Dhahi Muscat (RJ) Other Flights (Terminal 2)

Beirei (ME) Cairo (MS) Khartoum (SDI 11:00 13:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhahi (GF) ----- Duhai (KL)

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Orange 301 (00
Onion (dry) 4011 380
Onion (green) 250 / 401
Pepper (hot) 281 / 301
Pepper (sweet) 280 / 201
Potato 250 / 201
Toranto 350 / 201
Toranto 350 / 201 Amsterdam (KL1





His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday visits the Latin Patriarchate in the Sunday visits the Latin rathance in Sweifieh to congratulate Christian sects an accasion of Christmas. Present in the

and Religious Affairs Abdulsalam Al Abbadi. Greek Patriarch Diodorus, Anglican Bishop Elia Khoury, the King's Religious Advisor Izzeddin Al Tamimi and Roman audience were (from left) Minister of Awqaf Catholic Bishop Salim Sayegh (Petra photo)

Mohammad Al Saqqaf. Prince Hassan issued direc-

tives on the need to enhance

coordination between the

Chief Justice Department and

the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, particularly concerning lands allocated for

He also stressed the import-

ance of activating the role of

Waqf (religious endowment)

institutions to enable them to

play their role in meeting the

society's needs in various

by Dr. Abbadi on the minis-

try's prepatations for the holy

month of Ramadan which will

start in February. He said the

ministry will launch during the

fasting month cultural prog-

rammes which emphasise the

values of faith and tolerance.

not to commit mulptactices

chances of success.

their exams.

that might endanger theit

Students. he said. should

write down all personal in-formation clearly and before starting to fill their answering

sheets. He also asked them not

to hesitate in informing the

Ministry of Education of any

incident that might take place

On Sunday, a meeting was

held at the Ministry of Educa-

tion under the chairmanship of

Minister Khaled Al Omuri to

Prince Hassan was briefed

charity purposes.

Crown Prince congratulates Christians on Christmas

of six years and improvements

in the prospects of achieving a

just and comprehensive peace

He also underlined the im-

portance of safeguarding hu-

man rights in the Middle East.

saying this region, which is the

cradle of civilisation and reli-

gions, deserves more concern

Sunday, Prince Hassan vi-

sited the Chief Justice Depart-

ment where he chaired a meet-

ing atteoded by Cnief Islamic

Justice Izzeddin Al Khatib Al

Tamimi, who is also the King's

advisor on religious affairs,

Awqaf and Islamic Affairs

Minister Abdul Salam Al

Abbadi, Director General of

the Industrial Development

Bank Taher Kanaan and the

Prince's Private Advisor

AMMAN (Petra) — Some

78,901 students Monday morn-

ing head for 1,050 examination

halls around Jordan to sit for

the first term of their general secondary school certificate ex-

abroad is the one in Tunis.

Students sit for examination in

the scientific, literary, com-

and hotel management

Director of the Ministry of

Education's Examinations De-

partment Mohammad Sayel

Obeidat said the Kingdom's

education departments had

finalised their arrangements

for the tawjihi examinations.

which will end on Jan. 8. 1994.

who will sit for the exams. Dr.

Obeidat urged them to ahide

by regulations and rules and

FORTE

GRAND

AMMAN

Offering advice to students

streams.

vocamonai, nursing

78,901 students to sit for

first-term tawjihi exams

from the civilised world.

in the Middle East.

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Has-Highness Crown American San Sunday stressed Jordan's keep interest in enhancing keep lucestanding among its peo-

ple During a visit to the Latin Patriarchate in Sweifiyeh to offer congratulations to all Christian secus on the Christian secus on the Christians. Prince Hassan affirmed Jordan's keenness to affirmed Jordan's of all Jordan protect the rights of all Jordaprotect the rights of their origin. The Crown Prince congin. The Crown best wisbes to veyed the Range and stressed that common aspects of the members of the Jordanian family should be highlighted and enhanced to help develop the Kingdom.

- Principal He pointed to the resumption of Christmas relebrations in Bethlebem after a stoppage

Cabinet approves 1,000 1994 projects

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THE PLAN

AMMAN (Petra) - The Cabinet Saturday approved the German aid programme to Jordan for the year 1993, under which Germany provides financial and technical aid for some projects carried out hy the government.

The Gabinet also approved Jordan's participation to the meeting of ministers of colture. due to be held in Beirut from Jan. 8 to Jan. 20

It also approved the Ministry of Tourism's participation in an international tourist exhibition, which will be held in the Neiherlands during the first

week of January. Meeting under the chairmanship of Prime Ministet Abdul Salam Al Majali. the Cabinet approves the application for licence for 1 new Arabic weekly. "Al Rase". "The new weekly will be issued hy Masaadeh and Tummaleih

1.00 The Cabinet also approved a request by the Health Ministry hold two workshops on AIDS for communicators and secondary school teachers.

WHAT'S GOING ON **EXHIBITIONS**

The second exhibition of engineering books at the Jordan Engineers Associa-

Exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the death of French novelist Guy De Maupassant at the French Cultural Cente-

Exhibition of traqi books nt the Royal Cultural Centre. Art exhibition by artists Ibrahim Al Abduli and Abdul Hussein Twaij at Alin Art Gallery.

Art exhibition by a number of Jordanian netists entitled "The Sixth Exhibition — Samples From The Contemporary Jordanian Art 93° at the Spanish Cultural Cen-

Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakhrelnissa Zeid" (1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 nt Darat al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundalioo. Also showing the "Permanent" Exhibition. (Tel. 643251/2).

CHRISTMAS

BAZAARS Cbristmas bazaar at At Nukhbah Exhibition Hall, University Road (Tel. 837304, 684257).

Christmas bazaar at the Amman International Auto Exhibition/Airport Road.

LECTURE

Lecture entitled "Can fine United States Lead The World?" by Mr. Abmad Sharaf et Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:00

No salary increase for civil servants this year, but options under study

By P. V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The government is not planning any salary increases for civil servants during fiscal 1994, but is considering a series of options aimed at bettering living conditions on a national level, enior officials say.

While an across-the-board hike in wages is ruled out, the officials say, the government might offer "incentive-oriented" increases for civil servants, based on their performances of work and agree-ment to work under difficult

The officials noted that no provisions for salary increases were made in the draft hudget for 1994, now before parliament, and that the government would be hard put to offer any hikes during the year because of financial constraints.

They also pointed out that the government could not offer any increases to civil servants since it was bound by the economic restructuring programme agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). One of the provisions in the prog-

ramme is a freeze in wage increases for the public sector, except for token annual increments.

The annual increment is automatically applied to civil servants except for cases cited by supervisors as poor performance of duties. In 1993, the government

offered an across-the-board increase: of JD15-JD20 to civil servants and security personnel, including the armed forces, as well as pensioners, the first salary increase for the since 1989.

That was an exceptional measure, given the visible rise in the cost of living and inflation," said a senior official, recalling that inflation during the previous year was more than eight per cent. Inflation during 1993 is not expected to go up beyond four per cent, officials say.

The IMF, which was faced with the salary increase as a fait accompli, "grudgingly accepted the measure as a quid pro quo for introducing sales tax," said the official, who prefered anonymity.

The government was supposed to have introduced the sales tax at the beginning of 1993, to replace the consumption tax which went into

ettect in 1992, but political considerations in an election year delayed the sales tax, which is now expected to be introduced in the first quarter

Officials also say that it Parliament insists on a wage increase and makes ils approval of the hudget conditional on a hike, then the hudget would have a deficit.

The JD 1.487 hillion draft budget for 1994 is described as the Kingdom's first deficitfree hudget since local revenues and JD 156 million in foreign aid cover all current expenditures and part of capital expenditures.

The budget does not include JD 300 million projected as Jordan's needs to service its foreign debts. The government expects external financing to cover this cost.

The increase offered in 1993, which was promised during the parliamentary debate on the fiscal hudget but took retroactive effect in April, is estimated to have cost the government around JD70 million. The official bureaucracy employs more than 400,000 people, making the public sector the largest

employer in the country. "The government is con-sidering a programme of

incentive-oriented salary increases for civil servants who excel in their performance of daties," said another senior official. "Also, people who agree to be located in outlying regions might be given an increase."

Such increases are acceptable to the IMF, the international economic watchdog, and the World Bank, which help countries implementing economic readjustment programmes develop and upgrade the efficiency of government departments.

Reluctance to work in rural regions is characterestic of most civil servants, who like to live and work in the capital or other major urhan centres.

Civil service experts say that even those who agree 10 be located in outlying regions as a condition for employment do so with their eyes set on using their "connections" to be moved to Amman or other urban centres at the first available opportunity.

"It is not enough that people accept employment in rural areas," said one expen. They have to stay there and perform their duties with an acceptable level of commitment and dedication."

The officials said such parameters would be taken into considerations in the 'incentive-oriented programme." hut cautioned, howevet, that "these are all ideas

and options under study, no-thing is on paper yet." According to the officials, the government will also seek to improve the effectiveness of assistance extended through the National Aid Fund as well as the Develop-

ment and Employment Fund. They said an "array of options" was under consideration. Again, nothing has been finalised yet, they added.

The draft budget for 1994 reflects an increase in allocations for the two aid funds while JD 6 million have been reduced from allocations for food subsidies.

"While there is no direct linkage between the reduction in subsidies and the increased allocation to the two funds, the increase could be attributed to the savings that the government expects to make by cutting subsidies, said Dr. Fahed Fanck, columnist and economist.

The government is planning a move to ensure that only the needy benefit from the food subsidies by limiting the availability of subsidised items to people who earn less than JD 500 per month.

IAF hardliners lose ground

(Continued from page 1)

differences "among the rainbow colours in our move-

"The crisis that the front faced in the last two weeks showed that the front and its members are not immune to differences, but we overcame the problems in a very short time," Dt. Farhan said.

But the lineup of the new council, where an overwhelming majority of members are known moderates as opposed to its bawk-led predecessor, clearly indicated that the doves had prevailed.

The front has nearly 3,000 registered members, and claims more than 100,000 hardcore supporters.

Much of Sunday's press confereoce which was also Mansour, Mohammad Owaida and Bassam Alloush, was focused on the IAF crisis. According to Dr. Farhan, Mr. Abu Ghanimeh's charges

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review the ministry's preparations for the examinutions. that the IAF was trying to liquidate the Muslim Brother-Dt. Oman said at the meethood as a political and social ing that the ministry pays due force in Jordanian society and attention to the examination that the IAF itself was steering and that it had been working towards policies of accomon preparing the proper aimosmodation with the existing phere fot students to sil for non-Islamic orders in the country were "personally motivated

and not politically soond," "Mr. Ahu Ghanimeh was upset that he was not nominated as an IAF candidate for Amman Second District in the legislative elections. He saw that he was losing ground and thus he resorted to going pub-lic with the IAF's internal issues and blew them out of proportion," Dr. Farhan said.

Mr. Abu Ghanimeh, a longtime Brotherhood member on the IAF's executive committee, bas argued that proestablishment members were steering the political policies of the IAF towards "accommodation rather than constructive

Mr. "Abo Ghaoimeh's attempts to secure membership for some 300 like-minded Brothethood members into the IAF one week before the Shuta elections created ao open rift last week, when Dr. Farhan adjourned an executive committee meeting after refusing to grant last-minute membership to the Abu

Ghanimeh-backed 1 activists. Dr. Farharı said Sunday that IAF membership bad been frozen since October but that as of January up to 900 new applications for membership would be reviewed. The Majlis Al Shura will elect a new executive council next week.

Saleh praises King Hussein's efforts to defuse Yemeni crisis

SANAA (Petra) - Speaker of the Yemeni Lower House of Parliament Abdullah Al Ahmar Sunday lauded the sincere efforts made by His Majesty King Hussein to contain the crisis between Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleb and his Vice President Ali Salem Al Beedh.

Mr. Al Ahmar's statement was made during a meeting he had with Jordan's Ambassador to Yemen Fayez Al Rabie', who .conveyed to him the greetings of King Hussein and those of his counterpart, Taher

In an interview with Jordan Television, broadcast Saturdy night. President Saleh said King Hussein was very concerned from the onset of the crisis and had sent letters to both the Yemeni president and his deputy, through the Royal court chief, Sharif Zeid Ben

Shaker. President Saleb said a special committee grouping representatives of the General People's Congress and the Socialist party of Mr. Al Beedth was formed to work out an acceptable formula for the current dispute between the Yemeni

Results of the meetings of the committee will be communicated to King Hussein for his "blessing and final louches." President Saleh said.

President Saleh voiced hope that the Yemeni press and patties will follow the same path Jordan's parties and press have been following. He voiced satisfaction with Jordan's democtatic experience, describing it as responsible and successful. He stressed the need for control governing democratisation and political pluralism.

In a favoutable development, the Yemeni president agreed Saturday to hold a meeting with Mt. Al Beedh on Jan. 9, according to reports in the Jordanian Arabic dailies The meeting was suggested by Yemeni scholars and ulemas, who proposed that such a meeting take place at one of the mosques of Al Jund city, 130 kilometres south of the

Yemeni capital Sanaa. Al Dustour Arabic daily said President Saleh and his deputy ate expected to meet in Amman soon to settle their differences. The paper did not elimirrate the possibility of a third visit by Sharif Zeid to Sanaa to



Ali Abdullah Saleh

carry Royal messages to President Saleh and Mr. Al Beedh. Asked to comment on such a meeting, Jordan's Ambassador to Yemen Fayez Al Rabie' said in a telephone interview that everything was possible. He added that the Jordanian initiative is the ordy way out of this crisis because King Hussein enjoys the appreciation and respect of all parties.

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Money alone won't do

APART FROM their very small annual increments, civil servants had only two humble pay raises in their salaries in the last five years. Early this year the pay of government employees, the army, the police and retired personel was raised by JD 15 each. A year or so earlier they got JD 10. But the two hikes covered only a fraction of the spiralling cost of living, which since 1989 has more than double's due to the forced devaluation of the dinar.

The government employs more than 60 per cent of the workforce and pays on average less than 60 per cent of the wage per person paid by the private sector. Recent studies by both UNICEF and the Ministry of Social Affairs reveal that close to 30 per cent of Jordanians live under the poverty line. Although no studies can prove it, it is thought that many of those who live under the poverty line are employed by the government. This is potentially dangerous. It not only means decreased efficiency through lowered moral, but is politically sensitive. After all the 1989 riots in many towns and villages were triggered by soaring prices.

The government therefore should be keen to solve the problem but careful in handling the situation. On the one hand, it cannot easily raise the funds necessary to improve civil servants' living standards; and, at the same time, it is obliged to adhere to the terms of the economic adjustment programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which stipulates, among others, a reduction

in budget deficit and in public spending. On the other hand, the government is expected to come under even more pressure from Parliament to find an adequate solution for saving public servants and the service as a whole.

In preparation for its final word to the House on this question the government is talking about ckages." "incentives" and a "new social contract." Whether these terms will be translated into clear policies or not will become clear sooner. For now, however, the factors that are causing this mess must be analysed and understood. The public sector is both overmanned and inefficient. In a way, it is a vicious circle for all. Because the service is overmanned it is responsible for a great deal of waste. And because salaries are extremely low, morale will continue to suffer no matter how many random pay increases are introduced.

What is required then are radical changes. These should include positive engagement by the government in efforts to strengthen the role of the private sector by removing legislation and bureaucratic measures that hinder its work. The government needs to get out of its trader job and leave business ventures to the private sector. Other services that may remain under government control - defence, security, education and health - need to be trimmed, streamlined and made more efficient through training, retraining and employment of modern management techniques.

What is needed is not more specialised studies conducted by new experts and specialists to identify the faults and produce a blueprint for efficient government. We already have done many of those. What is really needed is a renewed will to enforce the necessary change.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON Monday's meeting in Cairo between Israeli and PLO officials. Al Dustour daily said that there are obvious signs that the two parties are determined to implement the Oslo deal. The paper said that despite the good intentions of the Palestinians, there is little chance that the two sides will come to agreement, mainly due to the intransigent behaviour of the Israeli government and the settlers, said the paper. It is due to the Israeli government's failure to respect the Oslo deal and, the aggression of the settlers on Arab people and property that the deal is not implemented, said the paper. The world community is watching any progress in the peace negotiations which started in Oslo, moved to Paris and back to Oslo before moving to Cairo, added the paper. It said that the Arab World is awaiting good results in the talks which it is hoped will witness end to Israel's procrastination and lead to a comprehensive peace.

COMMENTING ON the behaviour of the Jewish settlers in the Arab lands under Israeli rule, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab said the state of the settlers is far stronger than the state of Israel. The settlers whose rule extends from the Golan, in the north, to Gaza, in the south, seem stronger and more aggressive than the Israeli government, said Arafat Hijazi. The writer said that the settlers, who group a large number of criminals, believe in aggression and violence which characterise their acts of violence against the Palestinian land and people. He said that these criminals are defying not only the Arabs but also the Israeli government, making the implementation of the Oslo deal almost impossible. According to reports that leaked from the Israeli defence, the settlers possess more and more sophisticated weapons than the regular forces. The reports said that the settlers are continually training in the use of weapons, which helps them defy the government, the Oslo deal and the views of the world

PLO-Israel agreement and prospects for peace

By Dr. Mohamed Rabie

The Israeli-Palestinian agreement of Sept. 13, 1993, identifies the road to a true and lasting peace in the Middle East, yet it is a road littered with obstacles and full of dangerous traps. Most ordinary Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip support the agreement and expect it to free them from Israeh occupation, poverty and deprivation. Most Palestinian inlellectuals, on the other hand. continue to criticise the accord and doubt its motives and ability to deliver what is being promised by the PLO lead-

The agreement is neither a political settlement nor a mere declaration of principles. Rather, it is a declaration of intent, an Israeli-Palestinian mutual commitment to seek and establish peace through a political process. In addition, the agreement calls for taking certain steps on the road to peace. It calls for the establishment of a "Palestinian interim self-government authority, the elected council, for the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip." It also states that "the interim arrangements are in integral part of the whole peace process and that the negotiations on the permanent status will lead to the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 and 338." However, the agreement states that "jurisdiction of the council will cover West Bank and Gaza territory, except Jerusalem, settlements, military locations. Israelis. Issues that were left for final status negotiations which are to commence not later than the beginning of the third year of the interim period are "Jerusalem, refugees, settlements, security arrangements, borders, relations and cooperation with other neighbours.

The agreement falls short of addressing the legitimate Palestinian demands for sovereignty and selfdetermination. It even fails to recognise the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as occupied territories, commit Israel to ending its occupation, or acknowledge Palestinian national rights. In addition, it fails to deal with the most sensitive issues of Jerusalem, Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, the fate and rights of Palestinian retugees, Palestinian borders, security and other important issues. And despite being called a Declaration of Principles, the agreement contains no recognised or binding principles to facilitate

and guide further negotiation. Viewed from another angle. the agreement's vagueness appear as a blessing because it did not preclude other options regarding the Palestinian future. PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas, who signed the agreement on Sept. 13 in the White House, said recently that the agreement carries in its belly the possibility of a Palestinian state as well as the probability of perpetuating Israeli occupation. Recognition of this fact has made most Palestinians feel hopeful and apprehensive at the same time. They are hopeful that the agreement will end decades of war and bring peace, yet they do not understand its provisions, are suspicious of its intentions and fear its possible implications on their lives.

Consequently, the momentum generated by the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles cannot be sustained unless further steps are taken and concrete progress is made. In fact, by the end of 1993, public opinion on both sides of the conflict has become more inclined to oppose rather than support the

Sept. 13th agreement. İsraeli journalist Dani Rubinstein wrote in Haaretz in late October 1993 that "indicators of public opinion in the West Bank and Gaza show that a great majority support the accords. However, this majority has responded to calls for strikes against the accords. The same majority continued to offer support and refuge to the wanted activists. This means that the Palestinian public opinion remains volatile and largely undecided. It is thus up to the parties to provide the incentives, the channels, the forums and the rationalisation to transform Palestinian hesitancy and confusion into solid support for peace and peaceful coexistence.

Palestinian forces opposing the agreement are disorganised and demoralised; they lack credible options to offer their c instituency. Such an opposition, however, could become strong and focused if the agreement fails to deliver what is being promised or if the wider' national institutions and societ-

peace process fails to make concrete progress on the other tracks, particularly the Israeli-Syrian one. If no agreement with Syria is reached soon and the current slow Palestinian pace and approach to institution-building and democracy continues. the opposition will be revitalised and energised, undermining the agreement and its potential for

experiment fails due to Israeli intransigence. PLO incompetence or both, the agreement will become a scapegoat. its shortcomings a rallying point, leading to wide popular dissatisfaction and possibly renewed violence. The agreement will have served no noble purpose; the time and money invested in it will have been wasted and peace, stability and hope will again become a casualty.

If the Palestinian self-rule

Israel seems to view Palestinian self-rule embodied in the agreement as an experiment to be limited and controlled. Most Palestinians, in contrast, tend to view self-rule and Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho as the dawn of a new era leading to independence and statehood. Such differing views threaten the integrity of the agreement and undermine the credibility of all involved parties. For example, the dispute over the definition. of the Jericho area makes no sense when viewed from a wider, futuristic perspective. It gives the wrong signal and demonstrates Israeli bad faith. Such an Israeli attitude undermines mutual confidence and weakens Palestinian support for the agreement, while providing the rejectionist forces with added ammunition to

fight it. Therefore, it is in the interest of all parties concerned 10 ensure the implementation of the agreement and provide the financial resources, the technical assistance and political backing needed for its success. Israeli cooperation in this regard is critical. Although it is too early to pass judgement, the pace of negotiations and institution building and the attitudes of Israeli and PLO officials are not encouraging. To facilitate progress and enhance the prospects of regional peace, it is suggested that areas, including the following: 1. The Israeli government

cannot hope to have peace and

security while Palestinian rights are violated. Palestinian activists are harassed andthousands of Palestinian prisoners continue to languish in Israeli prisons and detention camps. Jewish settlers moreover, cannot be allowed to continue roaming the occupied territories as armed gangs intent on disrupting Palestinian life, terrorising children and killing whoever dares to stand in their way. A more realistic Israeli policy that recognises and respects Palestinian political and human rights is needed. In addition, a more liberal interpretation of the Sept. 13 accord taking the future, not the past, into consideration is also needed. Without such changes, the PLO and the proposed Palestinian council for self-rule will have no credibility, and popular support for the agreement will erode, paving the way for renewed vio-

2. The pace of the peace process regarding the Syrian track needs to be accelerated. While no serious obstacles seem to prevent resolving the Jordanian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli disputes, no concrete progress regarding both tracks can be made without the conclusion of an agreement to settle the Israeli-Syrian dispute. Israeli tactics to pressure Syria will not work and could be counterproductive. Israeli claims that it is difficult to conclude another agreement before the first one has been digested by the Israeli public is neither truthful nor helpful. Syria. besides being entitled to regaining sovereignty over its occupied Golan Heights is the only credible Arab party that can make life difficult for Palestinians supporting the Sept. 13 accord. It can provide the Palestinian rejectionist forces with the political, logistical and financial backing needed to undermine the agreement. Some 700,000 Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon and Syria could be trained, organised and used to intimidate and possibly "li-quidate" PLO leaders and others promoting the agree-

3. The PLO leadership must declare its commitment to democracy, to ending nepotism and to building credible

al systems that ensure social responsibility and accountability. An honest examination of the process led by the PLO to negotiate, conclude and gain institutional approval of the Sept. 13 agreement would conclude that democratic procedures were violated and legitimate Palestinian institutions were by-passed and no debate was allowed to facilitate popular examination of the agreement and expert evaluation of its political and economic ramifications.

4. The current pace of Palestinian institution building is slow and cannot meet Palestinian needs for state building or satisfy international requirements to receive and manage foreign aid. The PLO needs to move quickly to transform its state of mind from that of a revolution to that of a government of a modern state engaged in nation building and socio-economic transformation. This transformation is essential to facilitating the institutionalisation of democra-cy, reducing political and financial corruption and creating credible vehicles to receive and effectively utilise foreign

The quick and generous international response to provide the funds needed to implement the agreement and facilitate the rebuilding of a devastated Palestinian economy is a positive sign. However, the level of foreign aid, PLO sensitivity to institutional requirements and the agreement's economic provisions are either inadequate or a cause of concern. The \$2.5 billion pledged by the international community falls short of meeting the minimum needs of the Palestinian people. For example, a comprehensive project to resettle the Palestinian refugees of the Gaza Strip over five years would cost about \$5 billion, double the pledged aid package for the entire population of the occupied Palestinian territories. The cost to resettle all Palestinian refugees, including those living in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. is estimated to be in excess of

\$20 billion. Nevertheless, no level of foreign aid will be sufficient to effect the necessary changes without baving adequate institutional infrastructure. Israeli occupation, unlike British and and Algeria respectively, left no bureaucracy behind to assume state responsibilities. The PLO, despite claims to the contrary, has no such bureaucracy and, left alone, cannot manage the pledged funds and utilise them effectively. And while Palestinian experts are abundant, their inclusion in the transformation process has not been taken

seriously by the PLO. In addition, the economic provisions of the Sept. 13 agreement have generated fear and suspicion among Palestinians and Jordanians alike. They think that those provisions were designed to guarantee continued Palestinian dependence on Israel and, at the same time, to employ the Palestinian economy as a vehicle to facilitate economic Israeli penetration of the large Arab market. Furthermore. the agreement's emphasis on economic ties and lack of concern for political rights has strengthened the Arab reaction to American and Israeli calls for ending the Arab eco-

nomic boycott of the Jewish tsraeli Prime Minister Yilzhak Rabin has more than once criticised the PLO for not moving faster to implement the agreement. He cannot and should not be allowed to place all the blame on the shoulders of the PLO when adopted Israeli policy has sought to deny the Palestinian people the opportunity to build national institutions, gain a degree of economic independence or develop community leadership. Dealing with the political, economic and institutional needs of the Palestinian people is a duty shared by all parties concerned. To facilitate progress. it is suggested that:

A. The PLO and the Jordanian government move swiftly to integrate their economies and unite their peoples. Such a move would enable the Palestinian self-rule authority to rely on Jordanian institutional infrastructure and gain a degree of economic independence while building its own. An expanded Palestinian economy to include the Jordanian economy would create a larger more dynamic market, while providing a more reliable vehicle for all three parties to reach other Arab markets. Thus, it is in the interest of Israel, Jordan and Palestine to include Jordan in all economic and financial

programmes and create a joint Jordanian-Palestinian political and economic entity. B. The fears of exiled

Palestinians must be addressed, particularly those living in refugee camps in neighbouring Arab states. This may be facilitated by allowing Palestinians living outside Palestine to participate in the creation and management of all national institutions and in taking decisions that affect their future. Palestinian refugees living in Jordan; Lebanon and Syria should be given the opportunity to elect representatives to oin those who will be elected in the West Bank and Gaza ro form the first Palestinian parliament. Such a political body is needed to form a Palestinian government, supervise the selfrule authority, negotiate final status arrangements with Israel, represent and protect the interests of exiled Palestinians and negotiate their future and the future of the Palestinian state with other Arab and non-Arab neighbours. C. Palestinian-Americans

are an asset never used by the U.S. government because of the stigma attached to them. The U.S., while having the power to influence the process of democratisation and institution building in Palestine, lacks the knowledge and political and cultural sensitivity to deal with the Palestinian people. A high State Department official said during a meeting in late September 1993 that with the exception of the Marshall Plan. every U.S. economic effort to help foreign nations has failed. We do not seem to understand how to deal with other people and there is no reason to believe that our experience in Palestine will be different," the official said

The formation of a Palestinian-American council of experts is needed to advise U.S. agencies, help the Palestinian self-rule authority and oversee the allocation of American aid to the Palestinian people. The council's first task would most probably be to commission a study to identify Palestinian institutions to be created and obstacles to implementation. The council would also facilitate the formalisation of long-term U.S.-Palestinian cooperation, while enabling the Palestinian people to benefit from the knowledge of a highly talented and educated segment of the Palestinian-American community. Such a council would ensure a better use of American assistance funds, enbance U.S. credibility, address the issue of political and cultural sensitivity and vastly improve the agreement's chances of success. Reliance on U.S. and international agencies only, or chanelling most funds through Israeli companies and Jewisb American institutions is selfdefeating. It will certainly. deepen Palestinian and Jordanian suspicion, creating new obstacles to peace and regional

cooperation.

D. A comprehensive programme to build Palestinian in-

stitutions of civil society should be launched as soon as possible. While participation of American and European nongovernmental organisations is essential, the establishment of a national Palestinian foundation is imperative to sustaining efforts in this regard. Foreign organisations and experts, while having valuable knowledge to share, generally lack the power and credibility to influence decisions, particular-ly at the local level. The proposed foundation is needed to promote democracy, foster peace and regional cooperation, and fund human and community development programmes and research projects. It should also provide institutional and financial support to young entrepreneurs, small business enterprises and promising scholars, artists and inventors. The funds to establish such a foundation and finance its many activities should come from the Israeli treasury which has been bolding nearly \$2 billion of Palestinian money collected from Palestinian workers over the last 27 years. At the time when funds were being collected, the Israeli government elaimed that the money will be kept intil the future of the territories is decided.

A public opinion survey conducted in October 1993 in the occupied territories revealed that over 70 per cent of the population favours elections to choose the self-rule council. Support for delegating authority to the PLO to choose council members was about 17 per cent only. Less than 4.5 per cent supported a suggestion

that the political factions and known Palestinian personalities make up the proposed council. However, about 65 per cent said that they intend to participate in the election process, while less than 18 per cent said that they will not participate. Meanwhile, only 36 per cent said that they expect the election process to be clean and fair and about 40 per cent doubted that it will be clean. As for those who expect elections to be rigged, the percentage was over 25 per cent. A new survey conducted by the same institute a month later, revealed that support for elections bad risen to 75 per cent. while support for granting the PLO anthority to appoint council members had declined to 15 per cent. A careful review of these results would

a. The majority of the Palestinian people are for elections but doubt its utility. . b. Popular participation could be increased with educa-

conclude that:

e. International guarantees for a clean election are para-

d. Support for factions and known personalities is very

e. Trust in PLO democratic inclination is weak and declin-

The Palestinian Central Council's discussion of October 1993 showed that PLO support for elections is weak and that the current PLO leadership intends to keep power in its own hands. A suggestion to hand over authority to the proposed self-rule council after its elections was rejected and instead it was decided to add elected members to those of the Palestine National Council which the PLO controls and does not even intend to convene soon.

Since peace is the ultimate guarantor of security, all efforts must be made to make this agreement a gate to true peace. And since no peace could be lasting and mutually beneficial without economie development, democracy, regional cooperation and mutual recognition of political rights, all parties should share the responsibility for instituting democracy, ensuring Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab land, and creating frameworks for bilateral and multilateral cooperation. The U.S., baving initiated and sponsored this process must, ensure its completion. Conceptualising frameworks and initiating processes alone is not enough. The need today is for involvement in creating mechanisms for implementation, utilising all human and financial resources at hand and pursuing regional peace with courage.

Since 1973 1 argued that no Arab war against Israel will be seriously contemplated without Egypt's consent and active participation; and no Arab-Israeli peace will be established without the consent and active participation of the Palestinian people. The Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty of 1979 removed the threat of serious war, the Israeli-Palestinian agreement defines the way to achieve real peace. The first treaty gave Israel peace with Egypt but failed to effect normalisation of Arab-Israeli relations, allowing Israel to continue waging war against the Palestinian people, Lebanon and other Arab states. The new agreement should not be made to give Israel normalisation without giving the rest of the Arabs real peace.

Calls to end the Arab boycott of Israel are calls for normalisation that ignore Arab political sensitivities and needs for peace. No rational person in the Arab World wants the boycott to continue, all leaders and businessmen in particular cannot wait for its termination. Yet all of them fear normalisation without peace because of its potential for undermining the Arab bargaining position and strengthening that of Arab rejectionism and Islamic radiealism. A more realistic approach to peace is one that makes normalisation a component of peace, not a condition for it and makes the ending of Israeb occupation of Arab land a prerequisite for normalisation, not only a possible consequence of its realisation.

Dr. Mohamed Rabie is a former professor of economics and an author. He published 11 books, the latest of which is "Conflict Resolution and the Middle East Peace Process" as well as tens of articles in Arabic, English and German.

Sales tax needed for economic programme

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

As expected, the leaders of the private sector did not waste much time before coming strongly against the draft law of sales tax, trying to kill it. The controversy has to be resolved one way ot another within two months.

It is not productive for the Ministry of Finance to engage the private sector activists in a lengthy consultation over the sales tax. Such consultations will go nowhere. The previous government did just that. It led the largest and most extensive discussions in the history of Jordanian taxation laws. It also made unlimited concessions to please the traders and industrialists. to the extent of chinging the nature of the law, yet the private sector did not give its consent, and probably will never do.

The present government should not repeat the same experiment, which the previous government went through in vain. The approval by the private sector of the sales tax or, for that matter. any tax, is a hopeless case. The private sector did not yet approve the consumption tax which the sales tax will replace. Businessmen have their reservations on the income tax. This is normal and understandable because the tax, as its very name suggests. is not pleasant. If taxes were left to the free will of the taxpayers, no taxes will be

Hopefully, the priority of the government is its continued existence and the proper financing of its functions. It has no alternative but to impose taxes on those who can afford to pay. It is not necessary to obtain the consent of each and every

category of tax payers. The principle which should be observed in this respect is that of "no taxation without representation." The representation of the overall interest of the people is vested in the Parliament, not in the Chamber of Commerce and Chamber of Industry which are, by definition, special interest groups, having the right to function as lobbies but not to claim reprenting the public interest at large. The government definitely needs the approval of the deputies but not the approval of traders and industrialists.

We should not forget at this juncture, that the sales tax is not a new tax; it is merely a reform and upgrading of a present tax: the consumption tax. The consumer, not the traders or industrialists, will be the final payer of the tax. Therefore, the strong objections of those two groups, ostensibly on behalf of the limited-income groups of citizens, are not more than putting obstacles against the implementation of the government financial schemes.

As far as the overall tax burden or level of prices, the transition from consumption tax to sales tax will not cause an upheaval. The proceeds which will accrue to the treasury will be substantially the same and the economic impact will be almost neutral. The new budget estimated the proceeds of sales tax in 1994 to be only 7 per cent above the proceeds of consumption tax in 1993, a moderate increase that can be achieved through the normal growth of the economy and the moderate rise in the prices of products.

However, we should not ignore the following three crucial facts: first that the sales tax is an integral part of the economic adjustment programme agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), second that sales tax laws are in force in 85 countries of the world and third that the last deadline for its adaptation is February 1994. The law should not therefore be evaluated solely on its own merits and urgency, but also on whether we want to keep the programme alive or risk its cancellation with all the consequences which will follow and their impact on the economic. financial and monetary security of the country.

Those who raise their voices against the sales tax law should be made responsible for the inevitable results of the failure to get it through. The private sector will be the first casuality if the law, and consequently the adjustment, were killed and Jordan plunged into economic crisis.

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needed ICCPR's provisions production could benefit Palestinians

By Waleed Sadi

Israel's belated ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) went by unnoticed not only hy the Palestinians and other Arah countries but also by the The state of the s Israelis themselves. It took the Israeli establishment more than fifteen years to come around to becoming a state party to the covenant, even though its coming to force in 1977 was the hallmark of the western civilisation with which the Israeli people often associate themselves.

After all, the various Israeli governments have always prided themselves with being part of the democratic world and often boasted that their state is the only democracy in a sea of darkness and dictatorship!

So why did Israel take so much rime to become an integral part of the club where it always claimed membership? What is worse, why has Israel kept its ratification of the ICCPR such a well-guarded secret that even its own people, including high officials, did not know ahout? And when it was adopted, the

decision to do so was done quietly and discretely.

The reason or reasons why Israel had put off the inevitable ratification of the covenant are plentiful and can be found in its policies, practices and legislations. That Israel laws are discriminatory on the hasis of religion and ethnic origin is something well documented and readily conceded by the concerned Israeli authorities. The "Right of Return" law, to cite just one example. gives Jews from any corner of the world a privileged status as far as immigration and citizenship rights are concerned over all others, including the indigenous people of Palestine. This classic example of discrimination runs counter to the most basic norms of the ICCPR and could be struck down as illegal in its hasis.

Human Rights File

As for the Arah Israelis, the list of discriminations against them must be a mile long. We cannot hegin to chronicle the situations where the non-Jewish citizens of Israel are not treated equal to the Jewish people. Employment, access to civil service, military service, economic opportunities, etc., are all but few examples where Israeli Jews are accorded a superior status. Yet, this is only one side of the coin.

The Palestinian people under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip could have gained a lot from the Israeli treaty obligations under the ICCPR, had they known of the fact and appreciated its implications. It so happens that when a state becomes a state party to the covenant, it is bound to adopt policies and measures, both legislative and administrative that are necessary in order to comply with the terms and provisions of that convention not only vis-a-vis its own people but also as far as any territory that it controls. In order for Israel to be true to its treaty obligation under the covenant, it must accord the Palestinian people under its control the full benefits of the treaty provisions. First and foremost, Israel is treaty-obligated to accord the Palestinian the right to self-determination. Ironically, the PLO has neglected to invoke this treaty in its negotiations with Israel for peace in the area.

At a time when the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the relevant U.N. resolutions are continuously invoked to bolster the Palestinian demands for liberty and independence, the ICCPR does not appear to figure at all in this endeavour. What is most unfortunate about this grave omission is the fact that the ICCPR could be even more potent and effective for securing for the Palestinians their matienable rights, especially the right of self-determination which is admittedly the core of all rights when it comes to peoples lacking freedom and

The first order for business as far as the Palestinians are the ICCPR and then document where Israel is in violation of these legally binding guidelines. This applies to Palestinians in the occupied territories as well as to the Palestinians who acquired the Israeli citizenship.

draft law. He did not say when

the new law would be finished.

draft law for the pension of

military officers and referred

to its Judiciary Committee a

proposal for drafting new in-

ternal regulation of the House.

in the House was manifested

Sunday as deputies kept going

backward to items that they

had aiready approved after leg-

al and constitutional points

were raised. Only four of the

80 deputies have legal training. The deputies will hold their

next meeting Wednesday when

they will have "a general dis-

cussion" with the government

on the peace process. It is not

yet clear whether the session

will be open or secret.

The dearth of legal experts

The House also approved a

Jerusalem in draft law

(Continued from page 1)

IAF deputy Ahmad Kassasheh said that the West Bank, including Jerusalem, is still part of the Kingdom and the decision to sever ties is "unconstitutional.'

"The sovereignty over Jeru-salem is Arah and Hashemite," Deputy Abdul Karim Kabariti said, agreeing with the viewpoint of the Islamists that the law should retain the mention of a court of appeal in Jerusalem.

Rapporteur of the Judiciary Committee Abdul Karim Al Dughmi disagreed with the proposal, reminding deputie of the changes that have occured since Jordan cut ties

with the West Bank in 1988. "We were elected under a law that cancelled parliamentary seats allocated for the West Bank," he said.

Deputy Samir Habashneh pointed out that I srael does not recognise Jerusalem as part of the West Bank and "a Jordaman withdrawal from it would lead to a vaccum.

He said that the Jordanian leadership differentiates between the situation of Jerusalem and that of the rest of the occupied territories on the grounds that Jerusalem is a Muslim Arab issue.

The president of the Judiciary Committee, Abdul Baqi Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would object to the inclusion of Jerusalem in a Jordanian law and reminded deputies that the Kingdom was "forced" by the PLO and Arab countries to give up its repre-sentation of the Palestinians in

> Mr. Jammo said Jordan disengaged from the West Bank to help the Palestinians who

requested it to do so. Despite the lengthy debate on the issue, a strong majority of the House voted in favour of the IAF proposal before the House approved the law in its otherwise entirety.

Minister of Justice Taher Hikmat said the government was preparing a new law on the establishment of the courts of appeals and noted that it is constitutionally required to present Parliament with the

Crown Prince rejects talk of Jordanian-Palestinian 'rift' (Continued from page I) tions, with reference that the recent visit paid by Yasser Arafat did

met, that we do not believe in the projects that make the rich richer and the poor poorer. We believe in the content that glorifies and honours the human content. Without honouring human beings there will be no peace and no stability in the Middle East.

"Concerning national rights, when we talk about borders, we in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan view that stepped up efforts should be exerted to solve border issues in the north and the south.

"I think the form of Arab meetings with the American leadership recently was serving the prevailing impression in the region that these declared and televised meetings serve only the image of absent coordination. In the future when we look at the picture of the Washington or Geneva meetings we will ask, as inhabitants of this region and as people suffering from occupation and shouldering the hurdens of all sentimental slogans calling for a solution, ques-lions about the tangible dimen-sions, the moral dimension, the cultural dimension and the reli-gious dimension. I do not think that a Jordan-American summit or a Syrian-American summit will take the Arab citizen away from such questions. On the contrary, it will add a new question, will a these meeongs serve the cause of

"When we look at Jordanian-Syrian coordination and when we look at the Arab countries orighbouring Israel and the continued meeongs and when we look at the American will to talk with the parties I think we see the U.S. realises that a comprehensive coordination among the Arah parties is an essendal element to avoid the idea of having a Jordanian choice, Syrian choice or a Palestinian choice. The only choice is a comprehensive peace and I believe that these meetings fall within this con-

"Jordan is a host of three waves of refugees — displaced persons, expellees and stateless people. We might say that 3I per cent of the total number of the Palestinian people live in Jordan, compared to per cent living in historical Palestine. When we talk about immigration and the Middle East region we talk about the respsonsibitities of all of the region's states. whether they are bordering Israel or not. We talk about Egypt, Iraq, Sudan and Yemen. We talk about countries that have a main role in hosting large numbers of refugees and displaced persons. The solution is on the Palestinian, soil. There is the solution and il lies in practising the right of repatriarion or return. I think the important think here is to effect the solution and it is in practising the right of repatriarion or return. I think the important thing here is to-remember that the steps towards a comprehensive solution always remind us that the story of Jordan and Paletine today is not the issue. The issue today is how to discuss the issue of the right to return or be repatriated and solving the problem of Palestinians wherever they are in an acceptable way that gives it its civil, economic and social rights in a fair manner in the Middle East region."

The Crown Prince was asked: After the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian agreement in Septem-ber in Washington there was some confusion on the Jordanian arena and there was some talk about 'who is Jordanian' and the return of citizens of Palestinian origin to their country. These was reflected in a clear manner on the economic situation. The question is 'arc there any definite Jordanian pr dures that you will take in this

The Crown Prince replied: "I think this question is loaded and when I say loaded this means there are two elements in your question. The first part asks about the Jordanian and Palestinan identity. This question in Jordan might be made by the imagination of those who think that there is a rift, God forbid, in the fabrics of this society.

"We believe in the national uni-ty in words and deeds. We also at the same time believe in pluralism and respect for other views and devoting belonging through clearly



defining 'identity' at the Islamic, regional level and naturally through discussing how is Jorda-nian? I wonder at those asking about the third and fourth grandlather's birthplace and how we talk about a Great Arah Revolt in Jordan and talk about renaissance

movements.
"It is really unreasonable that the Kingdom's founder Abdullah, may God's mercy be upon him. who received the refugees in 1948 that his grandsons, God forbid, to... His Majesty always stresses national unity between citizens regardless of their origins; it is irrational that we contradict ourselves and the historical message, while our history says that we enhance this identity in words and deeds

On a question on a future Jordaoian-Palestinian confedera-tion, the Crown Prince said: 'Confederation with whom?

When Jordan's proposal on the form of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship in 1972 was presented il was not accepted by our Arab brethren and they refused to look at the details of this proposal.

The Israeli side also may be in
1972 was thinking that Jordanian

touches were still tangible in the occupied territories and maybe was comfortable with ruling out the idea of confederation in 1972 and in 1974 that was a stand supporting an independent Palestinian identity and backing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. An in 1988 there was Jordan's decision to sever its legal and administrative ties with the West Bank.

"I would like to ask about the issue of shifting from the practical role in supporting the Palestinian identity in trade and education from Jordanian to Palestinian sovereignty, by God's will... and I wonder about the way to complete these stages and about confederation... But it is impossible to talk about structural relacionship unless we develop the practical rela-tionship from the base to the top," Asked whether there was a cool-

ness in Jordanian-Palestinian rela-

not produce positive results at the level of developing the work of the joint committees or signing the

economic cooperation agreement, the Crown Prince said: "We canool judge this rela-tionship by using such vocabulary and it is enough to say that the Palestinian side is naturally hurdened by heavy international responsibilities, keeping in touch with various governments in this world to outline the signs of progress and responsibilities in formu-lacing a concept of Palestinian administration with its various

tive answer on transferring the committees that were formed be-tween the Jordanians and the Palestinians to a new monument of agreeing or several issues regard-ing the commercial relationship. ing the commercial relations

"I like to emphasise that open-ing the branches of Jordanian banks have nothing to do with the talks of the past few months. There was a Palestinian request in 1986 to open branches of Jordanian banks in the occupied territories and that is under study now. But my main question is that if we continu reality not to coordinate stands in the quantity and quality as re-quired by the Jordanian and the Arah vision neighbouring occupied Palestine... and who will win the round...?"

On possible regional economic

"I believe that the political framework is the main issue in everything as I have expressed in many occasions before. We do not believe in projects that make the rich richer and the poor poorer. We believe in the political, legal framework that respects the countries' national sovereignty and that these countries practise their sovereignty in all fields. But when we talk about the region's clear market, allow me to remind you to the Arab boycott of Israel as an example because there should be a substitute. We really do not want

to have voices rising in this world calling for ending the boycott with-in the framework of removing the countries that joined the European agreement on fariffs and have been

"I talk about Israel's entering the region's market in stages over years through a full understanding aspects.
"So we wait and expect a posi-

cooperation, including Israel, he said:

unfriendly phrases about Israel in the United Nations' resolutions. It is inevitable to remind you that Greece, Spain and Portugal were

ceiving huge financial incentives. So it was not difficult for them 10 join that agreement.

of the great existing gaps and the need to contain and address them in a clear way that would not leave the Arab citizer with the impression that the economy of the \$50 or \$60 billion is invading and dominating. We naturally do not seek an economic solution to economic problems but seek a political and legal framework and we look for the means to develop this region as the other regions of the world."
On the Wesi's perception of Islam, the Crown Prince said:

"As a Hashemite, I cannot but belong to Islam as a dogma and a faith. When we talk about Islamic radicalism I believe we are wrong when we accept such vocabulary. In defending the image of Muslims in the world I think I am extremist. I address the world as I did in the United Nations, in my defence of the image of Islam as we know and as we live in the Islamic Nation. But allow me to mention the reason of extremism and focus on the policies of despair and the economies of despair. In particu-lar, I remember when we were demanding the establishment of

an international alms fund.... On possibilities of better Arab relations and the UAE's call for Arab reconciliation, the Crown Prince said:

Naturally we received this call with full appreciation and admira-tion, and we admire statements by Sheikh Zayed and some UAE officials who made us feel the certain desire to mend lences. I can talk about my interest in the Arah Thought Forum and the call 10 having understanding between us before having to reach agree-

The Crown Prince, in an interview published Sunday, described an Oct. 1 meeting to Washington with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres as a painful and bitter

In an interview with Beirut's Al Safir daily, Prince Hassan said the Gulf crisis sparked by the Aug. 2.1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait had split the Arab World and encouraged others to make de-mands on Arabs.

"My feeling when I met with Peres was similar to that of a

freedom fighter who was going to a deadly operation," he told Al Safir. "I was the commando who volunteered for the operation and felt that I was going to that meeting "It was a painful and bitter

whole Arab Nation. We were not in excellent shape before the Gulf crisis, but we have fallen to the bottom now," he said in interview. Prince Hassan stressed the im-

moment, and I felt sorry for the

portance of achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region and said it will be difficult to achieve peace without involving

Iran and Iraq.
Prince Hassan said if extremism and terrorism were to be con-tained, then it was a must that all people in this region should feel secure and enjoy peace.

Jordan's relations with Syria.

Prince Hassan said, were unique and that the leaderships of the two countries have dismissed the myth of "Jordanian and Syrian options." He noted that contacts and conultations with President Hafez Al Assad were continuing.

Hamas offers conditional truce

(Continued from page 1)

side will respond, the armed side from the Palestinian side will stop all the manifesta-tions," he said.

Israeli Chief-of-Staff Ehud Barak was quoted by the Israeli daily Maariv on Sunday as saying Hamas' proposal was not serious.

Hamas has stepped up attacks on Israeli targets since the Israel-PLO agreement was signed in Washington.

Also Sunday, an Israeli-Arah legislator urged Israel to release Hamas' jailed spiritual leader Ahmad Yassin, saying this could further mollify Hamas' opposition to the

peace talks. "When this man is released, there may be someone in the field you can negotiate with." Taleh Al Sana of the Arah Democratic Party told Israel Radio. He reportedly met Sheikh Yassin over the

weekend in the Ramle prison hospital.

Sheikh Yassin, 58, in frail health and confined to a wheelchair, is serving a life term for ordering killings of Israeli soldiers and Arab informers during the Palestinian nprising.

The Jerusalem-hased Palestinian daily Al Nahar reported that Israel had offered to free Sheikh Yassin in exchange for a cease-fire with Hamas. Hamas refused the offer, the newspaper said.

Soldiers, meanwhile prevented about 25 Israeli militants of the anti-Arab Kach movement from entering Gaza City where they had challenged Hamas to a street battle, Israeli reports said.

Some reportedly got into a fist fight at the Erez crossing into Gaza with Israeli peace crusader Ahie Nathan, who encountered them while leaving Gaza after meeting Hamas

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OECD: Stronger action needed to cut Italy's debt

MLAN(R) — Italy must take stronger measures to tackle its enormous debts or risk eroding investor confidence in the country, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has said.

- Failure to achieve adequate fiscal consolidation could... inærease market uncertainties sand prevent the monetary au--thorities from easing domestic eredit conditions," the 24-nation forum for industrial -countries said in its latest halfsearly report.

... Its conclusions echo similar findings by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which Ececently said that Italy had to he more rigorous if it wanted to maintain its fight against its

ATHENS (R) — Greece's new

Socialist government easily won a parliamentary vote on a

tough 1994 budget, which aims to cut chronic deficits by boost-

The Socialists, who have 170

deputies in the 300-seat parlia-

ment, easily won the vote with

168 deputies voting for and 129

Papandreou, speaking in par-liament ahead of the vote,

said the need to tidy up the

economy prevailed over the

Prime Minister Andreas

ing development.

against.

financial problems.
The OECD predicted that public debt would rise to a record level above 110 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) — the size of the economy - this year and added that it was set to climb even further in 1994.

However after years of rising deficits, the budget shortfall in 1993 is expected to be down on last year's 163 trillion lire (\$96 billion), meeting the govern-ment's target of just over 150 trillion (\$88 billion). about nine per cent of GDP.

Prime Minister Carlo Azegli Ciampi is looking to shave a further 31 trillion lire (\$18 billion) off the deficit next year but the OECD said there was a good case for moving faster.

need for social programmes.

"We did not have a choice, the need for economic recov-

ery and development was greater," he told parliament.

The budget shows a primary

surplus of 421 billion drachmas

(\$1.7 billion) in 1994 or 2.3 per

cent of the gross national pro-

duct (GNP). It sees GNP growth

at 1.5 per cent in 1994 from 0.2

in 1993 and ioflation at about

11 per cent annually by the end

While revenues are in-

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creased by 23 per cent to 7.2

of next year.

n terms of future tax burdens and loss of financial market onfidence very likely outweigh the risks to activity of taking decisive action in cyclically weak conditions." it said.

The Paris-based organisation said the Italian economy was on course for a slow recovery, with unemployment still rising but inflation dipping.

"Against the background of continued fiscal tightening and monetary relaxation, economic growth is projected to recover only gradually, staying well be-low potential in 1994, following a small decline in 1993." it

The government expects flat

trillion drachmas (\$30 billion).

spendiog is only up by 17 per cent at 9.8 trillion (\$40 billion).

National Economy Minister George Yennimatas told par-

liament his budget reflected

the need to be rid of huge

debts by boosting development

and competitiveness and fight-

During the five-day debate

opposition parties criticised the

government's budget targets as

unrealistic and its methods of

fighting tax evasion as ineffec-

ing tax evasion.

output this year followed by growth of 1.6 per cent in 1994. recovery was underway, it remained patchy. **Greek Socialists win budget vote**

largest shares on the exchange. gained just over 500 points from its close in 1992 and finished the year at around 3,400 points.

The index closed for Christmas at 3,412,3 points and was to reopen for three days' trading from Wednesday Dec. 29.
The rise in shares came despite a series of setbacks as figures showed that, though

LONDON (AFP) - An eco-

nomic recovery, a cut in in-

terest rates and slowing infla-

tion pushed the London Stock

Exchange to a record high in

1993 with the FISE 100 share

index up 18 per cent on the

year, making analysts cautious-

ly optimistic for 1994.

The FTSE 100, measuring

the performance of the 100

Since the pound left the European Monetary System (EMS) in September 1992, the FTSE 100 has gained more than 1,000 points, up 45 per cent in little more than a year,

noted analysts at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull the first such rise since 50 per cent increases in share values

in 1968, 1972 and 1987.
"At present," they said, the market expects further gains in 1994, while interest rates and inflation remain at a low level, the pound is strong and recovery continues.

Analysts cautious for 1994

But, in the second half of the "it's going to be har-

The London share market is heavily dependent on positive news on the international they said, suggesting that the market needs a European recovery and a continuation of recovery in the United States if it is to rise further.

Though it is possible to see the FTSE above 3,600 points before the end of 1994, one sbould remember that the rises in 1968. 1972 and 1987 were all followed by a correction of at least 40 per cent in the two following years, they said. Brokerage house Lazard Investors said "1994 could be unusually difficult" for inves-

'It is difficult to see how the British economy could rise strongly next year when the recovery was so modest in 1993 while favourable factors should have helped it along." it added.

Merrill Lynch, for its part, predicts a correction of between eight and nine per cent at the start of the year, followed by "a recovery, probably not as dynamic as 1993.

The OECD forecasts 2.9 per cent growth in Britain's gross domestic product in 1994, after a rise of two per cent in 1993 and a fall of 0.6 per cent in 1992. Inflation should rise to three per cent next year from

two per cent this year.
Interest rates, which started the year at seven per cent, should fall to four or five per cent from the present 5.5 per cent, they said.

Among the main events of the past year, the widening of

London stocks at record high in '93 the EMS trading bands on Aug. 2 was warmly greeted by dealers in London, predicting the wave of interest rates that was, indeed, to follow in Europe

> The strongest performers on the exchange were in aero-nautical engineering, building and merchant banking, the first two being "saved" from apparent demise by the cut in British and continental interest rates, the latter rescued by a recovery in business activ-

The year was not good to everyone, however, and supermarkets, pharmaceuticals, breweries and distillers lost ground on the rising market.

Television groups rose strongly at the end of the year after the government relaxed takeover rules for the media

Gilts were boosted by the cuts in interest rates, while mining interests were boosted by a rise in the price of gold.

Baku seeks changes to Western oil deal

MOSCOW (R) - Azerbaijan is seeking to change some of the terms of a multi-billiondollar project with Western of giants to develop offshore Caspian Sea oilfields, a senior official has said.

Lucal journalists quoted Khoshbat Yusif-Zade. vicepresident of the Azeri state oil company SOCAR, as telling a news conference in the capital Baku that the initial deal with Western firms "had some features which did not suit Azerhaiian.'

Azeri experts were working out alternative proposals which would give a bigger share to Russia's Lukoil Company and which would meet Azerbaijan's interests better, Mr. Yusif-Zade said.

Azerbaijan hus been negotiating with a Western consortium — led by British Petroleum Co and Norway's Den Norske Stats Oljeselskap A/S (Statoil) — to develop the Caspian Sea oilfields with estimated reserves of three billion mated reserves of three billion

But discussions have faced two sticking points — the likely export route for the Azeri oil and the way the areas open for exploration and exploitation should be divided up.

Azeri officials said they be-lieved revenue from the development could be higger if the project was divided into three parts, rather than two

parts as at present. Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuri Shafranik said last month Russia was willing to export Azeri oil to the West using Russian pipelines, noting that this option would be more profitable than Western prop-

osals to build new pipelines. He said that Russia could start transporting the Azeri oil as early as 1994, if Azerbaijan agreed.

Worries remain

China's economy roared in 1993

BEIJING (Agencies) - The Chinese economic dragon roared to life this year, but in 1994 it could still be consumed by its own flames.

A second consecutive year of 13 per cent economic growth made China a star while the rest of the world continued to wallow in the aftermath of

It excited a frenzy among foreign investors eager to grab a share of a market of \$1.2 billion potential consumers.

It gave China's people more of a choice than they ever bad before over what they could buy, how they could play and, most importantly, where they could work.

But that same growth brought China its worst inflation in four years, rising to over 21 per cent annually in cities, and set off a rapacious round of official corruption and greed that infuriated ordinary people.

It accelerated potentially grave gaps in wealth between booming coastal areas and the stagnant interior, and between entrepreneurial city dwellers and the country's 800 million peasants.

Ominously for the Communist Party that came to power on the back of a peasant movement, rumblings of farmer unhappiness even burst into fullfledged riots in several places.

The growth excited importsto such an extent that China ran its first trade deficit in four

Amidst this ferment; Beijing pledged to embark on its most ambitious economic reforms yet, a second Chinese revolu-tion that — if successful would remove nearly all of the old communist trappings from what is now called the "social-

ist market economy."
The plan is to kick communist bureaucrats out of the boardrooms, throw as many of the lumbering state enterprises onto the mercies of the market as possible and reform antiquated tax and foreign-exchange systems.

China's leaders know that continoed 13 per cent growth is unsustainable economically. Because of all the inefficiencies and bottlenecks in the system, high growth can only set off potentially destabilising infla-

But they also believe that slowing down the growth at a time when China's economy is caught in the transition between the socialist and the market systems could be politically unsustainable, threatening the rule of the Communist

dinasaur-like state industries that are losing money even as they provide jobs, housing and social benefits. "China is like a patient who

has had a chronic illness," said B. Y. Wong, a director of Hong Kong's Sun Hung Kai Investment Services Ltd. "In the last 15 years (of economic reform) it has started to recover and run very fast, and it bas begun to sprint in the last two years. Now the 'patient' has found out that if it wants to keep on running it really bas to tackle its problems."

As China tries to undo more than four decades of socialist economics, its sprinting leaders have three choices as they deal with their "chronic ill-

ncss. They could slow down to avoid straining their "pa-tient's" system. By making that choice, however, they would rule out winning the race — they could never catch up with the world's developed countries or even the developing nations that have fewer

They could keep on running pell-mell and take the risk of the patient eventually collapsing in a heap.

Their third choice is to see a doctor and get treatment. What China's leaders seem

to have done is chosen to combine the second and third choices - they've asked the doctor to cure the patient even as he continues to spring.

"The domestic situation has provided a golden and favourable opportunity and everything must be done to seize it," President Jiang Zemin said this month. ...

Party.

Too many millions of people fast and healthy track remains still depend on the huge China's top priority," aid Pre-

mier Li Peng.
The problem is that there are no clear definitions of wbat either "fast" or "bealthy" really mean now to the Communist Party leaders, who are concentrating on keeping their own personal power intact.

"It's a very short-time vision, even in Beijing," said an Asian economist studies the China market.

Looming over those leaders is the question of bow long China's economic-reform patriarch, 89-year-old Deng

Xiaoping, will remain alive. The frail Deng's repeatedly reported demand for fast growth appears more important to economic planners than

any dry but worrying statistics. The problem is that in a country changing so rapidly, Mr. Deng can hardly be in touch with even the most basic

facts about the economy. When China's paramount

leader, who is officially retired from all his posts, went on a car tour of Beijing in October, bis daughter jokingly asked him to pay a toll on the bigh-

"How could I bave the money?" a Beijing-controlled newspaper in Hong Kong quoted Mr. Deng as replying. I have not held a single cent since 1929."

The OECD has warned China to avoid any "premature" easing of the 16-point austerity programme adopted by Beijing last July to cool its overheated economy.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY DECEMBER 27, 1993 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: It's good day to make plans for expandings your activities, per-sonal interests and to gain more benefits for all connected with any long term pursuit. Avoid one who talks but never does.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have all kinds of interesting new ideas for the coming year but it is necessary that you not only look at the inspiring side but also into practical ways to achieve them.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You want to clear your financial decks so you are fre of obligations so you start the new year on a constructive nature but are apt

to neglect some accounts. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are apt to judge a person or matter in the outside world without being aware of all the cir-cumstances that actually took place so investigate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You are disgruntled with the performance of some tasks today and that's allright so long as you take the pains to uncover the real reason for this.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You find year end expenses are very costly in the entertainment sector of your life so seek out those you can enjoy that are within your

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your home affairs can require that you exercise a considerable amount of patience or you can stir up a condition that brings intermitten trouble.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Stop, think and then do so again before you answer that disturbing communication for it is best to calm trouble waters than to stir them up.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your own ideas about a money situation are not good and you can depend more upon an experienced and well organised friend for the right

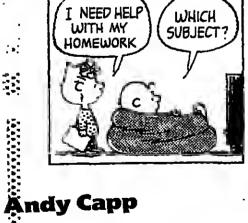
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are apt to try to work some of those angles at which you are so edept but unless they are endowed with unusually good common sense you make mistakes.

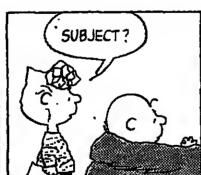
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 201 Now a secret anxiety can keep you so upset that you make errors where it will take intermittent time in order to work them out nightly .

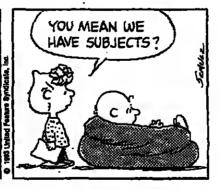
AQUARIUS: (January 2t to February 19) You are anxious to be gregarius and see many friends and acquaintances but they have their own precautions now so plan to do so later in the

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Steer clear of the outside world as much as you can today and tonight since those who could be helpful to you are not in

Peanuts









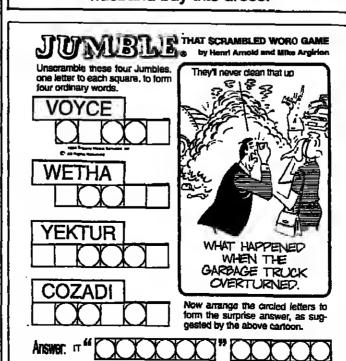




Mutt'n'Jeff



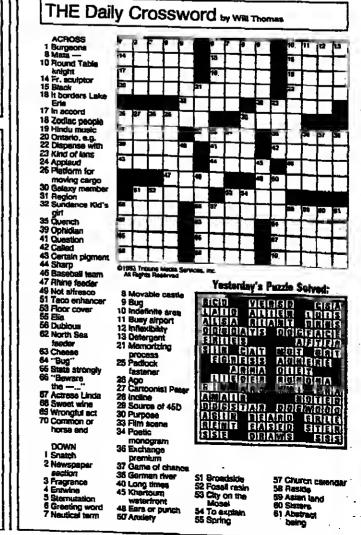




Jumbles: COACH KEYED

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How the trainer reacted to the broken stop - watch — HE WAS 'TICKED OFF'



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Kuwait trims bad debt bond rate to 5.5%

KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait's central bank set a 1993 interest rate of 5.5 per cent on bonds issued to financial institutions as part of its bad debt settlement programme, the official Kuwatt News Agency said Sun-

Bank Governor Salem Abdul Aziz Al Sabah said the state would make a 58 million dinar (\$194 million) saving on interest payments after a six per cent payout in 1992, the

agency said.

The bond rate is crucial for the banks' profitability because the instruments make up about half their assets.

The central bank sets an-annual rate for the bonds, which it issued to banks and investment institutions in 1992 in return for their portfolios of \$19 billion in dubious loans.

The central bank governor indicated...that the burden the of the local banks' average cost state will bear for the-bond

interest fell by 58 million dinars from last year." the agency quoted a bank statement as

"He expressed relief at setting the interest at 5.5 per cent and he expected this will achieve stability in the general performance of the banking sector compared to last year, it said.

The bonds-for-deht huyout was the first stage of a government rescue plan aimed at ending a problem that has enfeebled the financial system for more than a decade. The debts stem partly from the 1982 crash of a free-

wheeling informal bourse used

by all sectors of society and

partly from commercial losses aggravated by Iraq's 1990-91 occupation. Sheikh Sabah said the rate was set "following the guidance

Study sees obstacles in industrial development of Arab Gulf states

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The private sector in the Gulf is capable of developing local industries given its large financial resources, but it faces obstacles, notably from the region's governments, a study has said.

Government incentives in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are no onger sufficient, financing is nadequate in some states and he massive gas reserves needed for industry have remained untapped, the study by the United Gulf Company for Industries (UGCI) said.

"Responsibility for the industrial sector's slow development is shouldered by state institutions which provide facilities and incentives for the industrial sector," said the study, cited by the United Arch Emirates (UAE) daily Al

"Most of these facilities have remained undeveloped for a long time. Even when they were developed, it was done

only in form, not in essence." it pointed out. The GCC states - Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar. Kuwait and the UAE - have undertaken large-scale industrialisation to reduce their reliance on unstable oil earnings, and in view of the relatively small potential of

More than \$37 billion have been pumped into non-oil industries, such as chemicals. food, metals, paper, cement

their tourism and agricultural

and garments. Some 4,000 factories have heen set up and the industrial

sector's share of the gross domestic product has risen steadily to 10.8 per cent in 1991, from 7.1 per cent in 1985 and less than three per cent in 1975.

Its added value also grew to \$14.7 billion in 1991, from \$11.4 billion in 1985.

But the bulk of the industries, apart from petrochemicals, are not geared toward export-oriented products, the UGC1 said

"The private sector's industrial investments have concentrated on products targeted at reducing imports, particularly during the oil boom. With the current economic downturn in the region, the market has reached saturation point, which requires a new industrial strategy." it said. "There is also a need to develop unassociated gas in the region to ensure stable supplies for industrial areas. This also applies to electricity, which is still relatively limited and inadequate for industrial growth.

The paper also noted problems in financing industrial

"Soft loans are widely available in some GCC states but unavailable in others. This has led to a major gap in the geographic distribution of industrial investment in the region," it said. "Gulf states should wager on the private sector in achieving sustainable economic growth. We should look at the decline in oil prices with optimism, not pessimism, because some pain is essential for renewal."

Financial Markets

Jordan Times In co-operation with



Foreign Exchange Market Summary (December 20-December 24, 1993)

Cairo Amman Bank

AMMAN - The dollar depriciated against the mark and sterling at the end of last week, while appreciating against the yen. It depreciated 0.93 per cent against the mark and 1.171 per cent against sterling, while appreciating 0.41 per cent against the ven.

The U.S. unit appreciated against all other major currencies Monday in quiet trading before year-end. Speculation that Japan's discount rate may be reduced pompted dollar purchases against the yen, despite denial hy a Bank of Japan official who indicated that the discount rate is already low and that there is no need for further reduction.

On the other hand, the dollar faced stiff resistance at al (0.80 yen and 1.72 marks during trading hours, which caused it to fall below these levels at the close.

The dollar's appreciation against the yen continued Tuesday, while it depreciated against the mark and sterling. The dollar's appreciation against the yen came in view of continued speculation of a cut in Japan's discount rate, in addition to a perceived rift in the Japanese coalition government. Furthermore, comments made by the U.S. Treasury secretary, in which he expressed dissatisfaction with Japan's progress towards implementing the U.S. Japan trade framework added to the dollar's appreciation.

On the other hand, a decrease of 1.7 per cent in U.S. Retail Sales during the first three weeks of December, compared to the same period in November, had no affect on the dollar.

The dollar retreated against other major currencies Wednesday. Reports indicated that the dollar appreciated substantially against the yen during trading hours, due to continued speculation of a near-term Japanese discount rate cut, However, new comments by the U.S. Treasury Secretary, who expressed concern over Japan's failure to stimulate demand and reduce its trade surplus caused the dollar to retreat. The dollar's failure to breach resistance at 111.70 year to its decline.

The dollar continued to retreat against the mark and sterling Thursday, while appreciating against the yen. The dollar's retreat was attributed to booksquaring before the Christmas holiday. On the other hand, the increase in U.S. auto sales to 7.4 million cars between the 11th and 20th of December. compared to 6.5 million cars over the same period the previous year, had no effect on the dollar. Neither did the University of Michigan's Consumer Confidence Index, which indicated an increase to 88.2 per cent in December from 81.2 per cent in

As the major European and American trading centre closed in Christmas Day, the dollar appreciated against other major currencies in Tokyo Friday, after the impact of the U.S. treasury secretary's comments Wednesday lost steam. The dollar thus closed at 1,6966 marks and 110.85 yen, while sterling closed at \$1,5010 at the end of the week.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the

Currency	17/12/93 Close	23/12/93 Close	Percenj Change
Sterling Pound	1.4860	1.5033	1.16 \$
Deutsche Mark	1.7094	1.6935	0.94 \$
Swiss Franc	1.4615	1.4328	2.00 %
French Franc	5.8380	5.7690	1.20 %
Japanese Yen	110.20	110.65	[0.41]8

USD Per STG

	23/12/1993		23/12/1993	
Currency .	I-Month(%)	l-Year (%)	I-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.62	3.31	3.68
Sterling Pound	5.69	5.12	5.12	5.12
Deutsche Mark	6.62	5.31	6.25	5.25
Swiss Franc	4.50	3.78	4.38	3.60
French Franc	6.59	5.68	6.50	5.53
Japanese Yen	2.31	1.81	2.37	1.87

Date: 26/12/1993

Correccy	Bid	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.7010	0.7030	
Steriling Pound	1.0528	1.0581 0.4146	
Deutsche Mark	0.4125		
Swiss Franc	0.4870	0.4894	
French Franc	0.1211	0.1217	
Japanese Yen*	0.6321	0.6353	
Duich Guilder	0.3692	0.3710	
Swedick Kronn	*****	***4*	
Italian Lire*	0.0420	0.0422	
Belgion Franc	Z*****	****	

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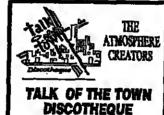
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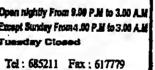
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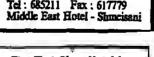
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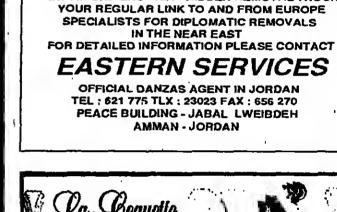
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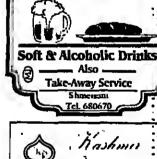
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Happy Hour

Time chooses Arafat, Rabin, Mandela and De Klerk as Men of the Year

NEW YORK (AP) - For Liberation their "common genius" as peacemakers. Time magazine picked Yitzhak Rabin, Yasser Arafat, Nelson Mandela and F.W. De Klerk as its "Men of the Year" for 1993.

The four were chosen because they "reasserted the principle that leaders matter: That an individual's vision, courageously and persuasively and intelligently pursued, can overpride the rather unimaginative human preference for war," the magazine said in a statement.

The four leaders are displayed ever the headline "the Peacmakers" on the cover Time's Jan. 5 issue, which goes on sale

'Without Rabin and Arafat. the Israelis and Palestinians would have continued down tbe same bleak, violent road they have followed since 1948," Time said, "Without Mandela and De Klerk, blacks and whites (in South Africa) would have descended into the bloodiest race war in history.

The magazine noted that the peacemakers deal in the Middle East and the one in South Africa are still works in prog-

ress.
"Extremists on all sides threaten to destroy the arrangements, which look at times like fragile shelters being nailed together in a high wind," Time said.

Mr. De Klerk, president of South Africa, and Mr. Mandela, leader of the African National Congress, were joint winners of the Nobel Peace Prize. Mr. Rabin is prime minister of Israel and Mr. Arafat is leader of the Palestine

(PLO). "In 1993, Rabin and Arafat; Mandela and De Klerk all rose to the occasion before them. Their common genius was that they saw in the convergence of circomstances a ripeness of moment - and that they acted." the magazine said.

In separate interview, each of the winners spoke to Time on their efforts to achieve

"The intifada (the Palestinian uprising) motivated the Israelis," Mr. Arafat said. There were no signs it would end anytime soon. There was no military solution. This super army was running after kids and fighting against women."
Mr. Rabin conceded that the

uprising "created problem for lsrael. "I didn't believe the present

situation could last without an increase in extremism among the Palestinians," he said. "I believed that we have a window of just a few years to try to face this threat.

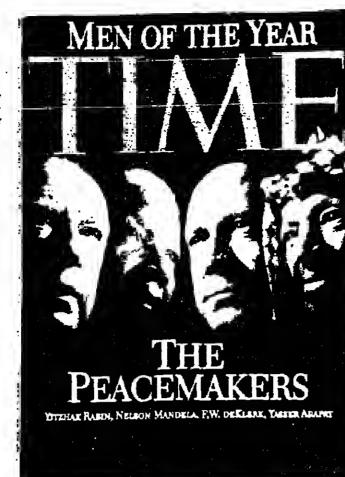
Mr. Rabin was concerned that Mr. Arafat's PLO did not have any experience in running a large community, but Mr. Arafat was confidence.

"The PLO is more than just an organisation. We are responsible for the whole life of our people." he said.

In an unusual turn, Mr. Mandela praised Mr. De

"In spite of my criticism, it must be acknowledged he has made a very important contribution to the transformation of an apartheid state into a non-racial society.

Mr. De Klerk said it was the



Time's Jan. 5 issue shows a combo on its cover of (left to right) Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, African Congress leader Nelson Mandela, Sonth African President F.W. De Klerk and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who have been named Men of the Year (AFP photo)

"I don't believe that I am irreplaceable. I don't believe that he (Mandela) is irreplaceable," Mr. De Klerk said. That fact is, we were around and we were the leaders." Time's first "Man of the Year" was aviator Charles Lindbergh, chosen in 1927. President Bill Clinton was chosen last year.

Bosnia truce grips after carnage

SARAJEVO (R) - A truce in Bosnia's civil war appeared to grip, however temporarily, on Sunday after Christmas Day fighting caused carnage and political rivals accused each other of prolonging the con-

Sarajevo, besieged by Serbs and hit by almost 700 shells Saturday, was quiet hut had no electricity or water.

Fighting elsewhere was reported sporadic, including in central Bosnia where Bosnian Croat HVO forces claimed to have halted a Muslim offen-

The truce, due to last until Jan. 15, was sealed by political peace talks Thursday.

But Sarajevo Radio said Muslims suffered 30 dead and 78 wounded in fighting in Bosnia Friday and Saturday.

Bosnian Croats reported 30 of their soldiers and civilians killed in central Bosnia and said the Muslim-led Bosnian army was regrouping in preparation for fresh attacks.

Ceasefires have never lasted long during the 21-month war that erupted when Bosnian Serbs attacked Muslims and Croats who declared Bosnian independence from Serb-

dominated Yugoslavia. Although Bosnia's Muslims and Croats - themselves now battlefield foes --- are a majority of the population. Serbs claim and control most of its

With the current ceasefire in the balance, Bosnian and Serbian leaders traded accusations of responsibility for the viola-

territory as an ancestral posses-

Serbian Foreign Minister Vladislav Jovanovic said in a radio interview the peace process, brokered by the United Nations and the European Community, had been put in jeopardy by the Bosnian government's determination - to

continue fighting.

Irfan Ljubijankic, the Bosnian foreign minister, blamed Serbs and Croats, telling a ·Sarajevo Radio interviewer: "I don't have the impression there is a real willingness to carry out the ceasefire."

He criticised apparent EC lack of will to force the Serbs to allow the airport to reopen in the northeastern Muslim stronghold of Tuzla.

Access to the airport, which is within range of Serb artillery, would improve the supply of aid to the 2.7 million Bosnians of all three narionalities who depend on U.N. relief for

"We noticed very energetic resistance from the Serh side to this (reopening) and apart from the anger of (EC) foreign ministers I sensed their resignation on this matter," Mr. Liubijankie said. "I haven't felt an energenc willingness on the part of the EC to impose such a solution."

Bosnian Serbs have flatly ruled out the opening of the airport in case additional supplies of food to the Muslims enhance their ability to fight on and delay a peace sertlement.

In a further effort to persuade the Bosnian government to negotiate, the Serbs have threatened to withdraw an agreement that Muslims should have at least a third of Bosnia's territory under a plan to carve it into three ethnic

The EC's counter threat to Serbs is that sanctions already crippling the economy of rump Yugoslavia will be made har-

sher if they are inflexible. Economist Mladjan Dinkic told the Belgrade daily Politika Sunday that inflation in Serbia would reach 569,131 per cent in December and was rising at 1.21 per cent a minute.

On Dec. 21, 1992, one German mark was worth 1,500 dinars. Mr. Dinkic calculated that had the government not cut several zeros off the dinar since, the equivalent a year later would have been 37 trillion dinars to the mark.

Hyperinflation has reduced millions of Serbs to poverty and emptied food shops of affordable staples.

Meanwhile. Muslim nations

vowed Sunday to intensify support for Bosnian Muslims and said that the only way to peace in former Yugoslavia was to allow Muslims to defend them-

A statement issued by the 51-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) assured Bosnian Muslims that they had the "support of one hillion Muslims of the world, who will stand hy them in their bour of trial."

Muslim nations have long voiced anger at what they see as the West's failure to protect their co-religionists in Bosnia.

The statement said its members were "determined to intensify their efforts to provide relief and assistance for Bosnia-Herzegovina, to impart a new momentum to their ongoing efforts to help in the defence of the sovereignty, in-dependence and restoration of the territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It urged the world community and Security Council "to reconsider their policies" on Bosnia and "endeavour to promote a just peace" and reiterated a call to lift the arms embargo for Bosnian Muslims.

"We demand that all international efforts be directed to reviving a viable and defensible state of Bosnia Herzegovina. without which there would be no peace, no stability nor hope for a just and equitable world order."

Japan 'wants to avoid' early

But Mr. Hata, who is also foreign minister, said the government had not completely

ficult fix, we want to avoid elections at all costs," Mr. Hata, a powerful coalition figure, said in a televised debate.

out dissolving parliament (for elections), but at this point we

While the government is poised to cut income taxes, Finance Ministry officials are demanding that the cuts be balanced with a hike in the

posed in 1989.

through long-promised politic-al reform legislation, which includes overhauling the electoral system and anri-corruption

August, Mr. Hosokawa vowed to get the reform hills passed by year's end or take political responsibility, a remark taken to mean he would resign or call elections.

to end.

Mr. Hosokawa said he had no intention of calling elections regardless of the outcome of

coalition's most influential member, the Japan Renewal Party (JRP), defended the government against charges it was incapable of drafting effective economic policy.

should be decided upon in parliament, but the opposition parties are refusing to do (this) in order to create confusion.

Ghali arrives in China after Korea trip

BEIJING (R) — U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, seeking to defuse a crisis over North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons prog-ramme, arrived in China Sunday and quickly went into talks with Chinese Premier Li Peng.

Dr. Ghali did not speak to reporters after flying in from Pyongyang on a special air-craft. He had earlier visited south Korea.

Before leaving the North Korean capital, the U.N. chief said he believed it would be possible to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula through negotiation and dialogue, the North's official Korea Central News Agency (KCNA) said.

China's official Xinhua News Agency reported that the meeting between Dr. Ghali and Mr. Peng took place. but it gave no details of their discus-

Several nations, including the United States, have expressed hope that Beijing would use its influence with its long-time ally Pyongyang to help resolve the nuclear issue. China has said often that talks represented the only way to solve the problem.

The New York Times newspaper reported Sunday that the U.S. Central Intelligence

Agency had told President Bill Clinton that North Korea has probably built one or two nuc-

lear hombs. The paper, quoting unnamed administration officials, saio this finding was disputed by the State Department hut supported by all intelligence

agencies. North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung told Dr. Ghali Saturday there were "positive signs" in his country's talks with the United States over allowing inspections of suspected military-related nuclear facilities. But Mr. Kim added that there was no need for United Nations involvement.

The president felt that, given the ongoing nature of the talks and the positive signs currently emanating from them, there was no need for the United Nations to become directly involved at this rime," a U.N. account of the visit said.

Both the United Nations and the North's KCNA described the talks between Dr. Ghali and Mr. Kim as "warm and cordial.

Reports from the United States indicated North Korea was moving towards opening all its nuclear sites to internanonal inspection but U.S. officials said many details still had to be worked out.

North Korea has refused to

permit inspections by the International Atomie Energy Agency, a U.N. agency, at two sites the United States has said it suspected were being used to process, nucleat materials. North Korean and U.N. officials have been in negotiations on the subject for months.

KCNA, monitored in Tokyo, said the U.N. chief expressed belief that the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula could be resolved through negotiation and dialogue. It said Dr. Ghali was speaking to reporters before leaving Pyongyang for Beijing.

KCNA said Dr. Ghali also stressed that the unification of Korea should be realised through talks, negotiation and dialogue. He said he hoped that soon Korea would be represented in the United Nations by one representative.

Saturday's talks with President Kim were beld in "a frank and cordial atmosphere," the U.N. chief said. "The international community and the United Nations must find ways to support security, reunification and development for the whole of the Korean peninsula," Dr.

Ghali was quoted as saying. Dr. Ghali will meet Qian Qichen, China's foreign minister and vice-premier, Monday before leaving the country.

Dutch

TOKYO (R) — Despite

Japan's worst economic slump in two decades, businessmen are not giving up the most important things in life - golf and drinking. From February 1992 to January this year, corporations spent 6.2 trillion yen (\$56 billion) on entertainment. Japan's highest total ever and a one per cent rise on the previous year, according to a goverament tax agency survey. The figure, which includes spending on golf, presents, restaurants and bars, is equivalent to nearly a tenth of the national budget and a daily national outlay of 17 billion yen (\$150 million). Many white-collar workers are worrying for the first time that they might lose their jobs, as companies strug-gle to cut costs. Overall corporate revenues slid by 1.4 per cent in the same period according to the survey, the first fall since current accounting methods were introduced in 1976. Analysts quoted by Kyodo News Agency said the rise came because of harsh competition in the current business environment. In Japan, money spent on entertainment is more effective in promoting sales than money on advertising. Biggest spenders for the third successive year were construction companies, in the news recently for a series of scandals involving hribes to local politicians in return for lucrative projects. They spent 8.4 yen on entertainment for every 1,000 yen they "aned in revenues, compared with an industry-wide average of 4.1 yen (8.4 cents for every \$10

Japan's gloomy businessmen keep

on drinking

compared with 4.1 cents).

AMSTERDAM (R) — Floodwaters which drove thousands of Dutch people from their homes over Christmas were in retreat Sunday, allowing clean-up operations

were evacuated in the southeastern province of Limhurg and more than 460 square kilometres remained under wa-ter after the worst flooding in

There were no official damage estimates, hut a spokesman for Internal Affairs Ministry said the hill could easily hit 100 million guilders (\$53 mil-

Floodwaters from the mighty Rhine surging north-ward along the River Ijssel in the northeast of the country still threatened surrounding countryside, .hnt emergency teams said dykes were high enough and seemed likely to

The swollen Rhine, which bas created bavoc in parts of Germany, is among the rivers that flow into the delta region which forms the southeastern Netherlands on the North Sea.

"There is no actual danger of flooding. We expect the wave to reach Deventer shortly and be here hy midnight, but we know all the critical points and there is no danger," said Henriette Loogman at the emergency centre in the northern town of Zwolle.

Both towns stand on the banks of the Ijsell, but she said in Deventer the water would crest

25 centimetres below the town's lowest dyke and in Zwolle the defences were more than 50 centimetres above the expected high water mark.

To the south in Limburg province some evacuated residents were told they could go home as emergency services began to mop up and started urgent repair work on damaged dykes.

Officials worried that the region's intricate water defences could have been dangerously weakened after days under wa-

The Datch government has declared the floods a national disaster and charities launched a joint appeal to raise cash for the victims, who face a ruinous Christmas as insurance cover for flooding is almost impossible to get in the Datch low-

Meanwhile, thousands of Germans began cleaning up Sunday after the worst river flooding in over 60 years swamped riverside cities and homes and forced many to spend Christmas in army barracks or hotels.

At least five people died in storm havoc: as gale-whipped floods surged through lowlying areas.

The Rhine River, which burst its banks after torrential rain and flooded scores of German homes, was receding rapidly along its length from Koblenz to the Dutch border.

In Bonn, disaster centre officials said the Rhine had stood at 9.12 metres late Saturday evening compared with 9.53 metres at midmorning Saturday.

Cicciolina says husband kidnapped child

ROME (R) - Porn star and

former Italian member of parliament La Cicciolina alleged that her estranged American sculptor husband Jeff Koons had kidnapped their child. Actress Ilona Staller, better known hy her stage name La: Cicciolina (small cuddly one), said Mr. Koons took 13-month-old Maximillian Ludwig. late Thursday. Police con-firmed that Ms. Staller had had a complaint against Mr. Koons and said a search had been mounted for the sculptor and the child, Ms. Staller said she was seeking the help of inter-pol and U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation to find Mr. Koons, whose sexually expire sculptures sell for thousands of dollars. "He has kidnapped my bahy," said Ms. Staller, a member of Italy's Chamber of Deputies on the Republican ticket until 1992. Ms. Staller said she suspected the child had been taken to New York, where she used to live with Mr. Knons, or Florida. "I still have our child's passport, so he must have been taken out of Italy illegally," she told Reuters. Ms. Staller said Mr. Koons. who had obtained a court order granting him access to the child, had taken him out Thursday but failed to bring him back. The order forbade Mr. Knons from leaving Italy with their son. "I started lookmg for them and found he had checked out of the hotel," Ms. Staller said. She said police were asking an assistant of Mr. Koons, William Gary McCraw, who had arrived at the hotel to settle the bill, about Mr. Koons' whereabouts.

Man pays for stolen Christmas tree...20 years later

WICHITA, Kan. (AP) — It

took 20 years, but a man who stole a Christmas tree from a city golf course finally paid for it. "It was something that had been chewing on him," said Stan Shaver, the golf pro at Pawnee Prairie Municipal Golf Course. "He finally told his wife, and she told him, 'go make restitution'," A man called the pro shop and said he had been broke 20 years ago when he snuck onto the course and chopped down a tree, "I told him, 'I couldn't give you a figure on it, it's 29 years ago. I'd just say forget about the tree and send me \$20'." Shaver said. "He said, that sounds fine"." About an hour later, a man walked into the pro shop, admitted he had stolen the tree and a garden hose and left \$40. The man who didn't give his name shook hands with Shaver and left. "It's kind of hard to face up to when you do something like that," Shaver said.
"I thought it was really some-

Chinese president hails Deng in homage to Mao's 100th anniversary BELIING (AFP) - Chinese

President Jiang Zemin paid homage Sunday to Mao Zedong in an impassioned speech at a ceremony commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of the founder of Communist China.

But he also used the occasion to burnish the image of supreme leader Deng Xiaoping as the natural successor of Mao, and to stress the importance of the market economy anathema to the late "great helmsman."

"Comrade Mao Zedong was a great Marxist, a revolutionary, proletariat, strategist and theorist, a great patriot and a national hero in the history of modern China," Mr. Jiang declared before a crowd of 10,000 people gathered at the Great Hall of the People, adjacent to Tiananmen Square, the site of

"He is the pride of the Communist Party, of the Chinese nation," said Mr. Jiang, secretary-general of the Communist Party, wearing a dark gray Mao suit, during an hour-long speech to the ceremony presided over by Prime Minis-

ter Li Peng. Even Mr. Jiang's hair was swept hack in tribute to the style of the late Chairman, whose potrait was hanging behind the official speaker's platform in the hall.

All the senior leaders attended the ceremony, with the notable exception of Mr. Deng, 89, who is in poor health.

Former President Yang Shangkun, 86, entered the hall fourth in line behind Mr. Jiang, Mr. Li and Qiao Shi, the president of the National Peo-

ple's Congress. Mr. Yang, a long-time Deng ally, who lost power in 1992, left the ceremony after only half an hour. "Comrade Mao Zedong be-

longs to all the people of China and is respected by the entire world," the Chinese president said, noting that his "contributions surpass his errors." without criticising Mao and the hloody Cultural Revolution of 1966-1976. "His thoughts again encourage us to continue the edification of socialism with Chinese characteristics," Mr. Jiang said in a tribute that was dedicated as much to the current supreme leader. Mr. Deng, as it was to the father of Communist China.

Analysts said the speech was aimed at affirming that Mr. Deng was the rightful heir of

elections

TOKYO (R) — Japan's coalition government will try to avoid calling snap elections despite opposition party roadblocks to policy-making and cru-cial legislation. Deputy Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata said

ruled out early elections. "With the economy in a dif-

"We don't completely rule want to avoid such a scenario."

Talk of early elections is rife on Nagatacho, Tokyo's parliament hill, as Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and his fractious eight-group coalition appear unable to agree on tax reform and other measures to stimulate spending and snap the economy out of its worst

downturn in two decades.

three per cent sales tax. But the Socialist Party, the largest in the ruling alliance. objects to raising a sales tax it fought to prevent being im-

Compounding Mr. Hosoka-wa's problems is lack of prog-ress in his efforts to push

When he came to power in

Last Friday, however, he apologised on national television and promised anew that his government would pass the reform bills into law by late January, when parliament's current extended session is due

the reform legislation. Mr. Hata, co-leader of the

"Overall economic policy

clean up as French coastline bans strollers floodwaters BORDEAUX, France (R) - Authorities banned strollers from more than 500 kilometres of French Atlantic coastline from southern Brittany to the Spanish coast Sunday after retreat explosive detonators were found south of Bordeaux.

Thousands of the devices began washing up on the coasts of Brittany a week ago, apparently part of a cargo of 34,000 detonators spilled by a Cypriot vessel in September. The detonators, designed to hlast rocks on construction projects. can be lethal if handled. No one has been hurt so far. The han is against walking on the water's edge. Strollers are allowed onto beaches but are advised to be cautious. Authorities initially banned strollers from Breton coastlines but progresto begin. . sively issued more bans as detonators hegan washing up on More than 12,000 residents beaches further south.

Georgian spy HQ bombed

MOSCOW (AFP) - A blazing row between Georgia's defence and security ministers degenerated into a brawl which led to a bomh attack on the country's Intelligence Service Headquarters, a spokesman for President Eduard Shevardnadze said Sunday. News of the scuffle at Tbllisi airport between Defence Minister Georgi Karkarashvili.and Security Minister Igor Georgadze cooffined that mounting tensions between the two departments had spilled over, amid reports that Defence Ministry troops in armed vehicles were deployed Sunday around the parliament building. Mr. Shevardnadze himself was forced to intervene during Friday's hrawl to. separate the two men, the presidency spokesman told AFP. A day later the bomh hlast ripped through Security Ministry Headquarters in the centre of the capital, wounding two guards, one of them seriously. Mr. Shevardnadze Sunday inquiry led by Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia to investigate both incidents.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rao pressed to keep finance minister

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao Sunday remained under pressure to reject the resignation of Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, the architect of the country's radical economic liberalisation. Business leaders and members of the ruling Congress (I) Party continued to appeal to Mr. Rao to retain the former World Bank economist in his cabinet in order to pursue sweeping reforms begun two years ago. "The country cannot afford to lose an able and distinguished finance minister." Rajiv Rai, president of the Hindustan Chamber of Commerce, said in a statement in the southern city of Madras. If Mr. Rao permitted the 61-year-old Manmohan Singh to go, it would cause a serious "setback to the economic progress of the country." added the Federation of the Karnataka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Manmohan Singh resigned from the cabinet quietly Thursday after a parliamentary panel hlamed him for a \$1.3 billion banking and securities scam. The resignation, revealed Friday, has not been accepted yet.

Jackson urges end to embargo on Cuba

HAVANA (R) — Civil rights activist Jesse Jackson. on a Christmas visit to Havana. has called for an end to the U.S. economic embargo against Cuba, saying in a rousing church address that Cuban children were suffering because of it. "Together we will work and pray and end the embargo and bring joy to the children." Rev. Jackson told a Christmas evening service in a small Baptist church in Havana, adding he was in Cuba to "work as a bridge builder, to help reunite two great countries." Rev. Jackson said he had been saddened by the knowledge that Cuban children did not have gifts this Christmas. Havana blames the 31-year embargo in part for a severe economic crisis that has caused shortages ranging from fuel and power to food items and basic consumer goods.
"Tonight, suffering has been induced in Cuba by an unnecessary embargo long after the cold war is over," said Rev. Jackson, on a five-day trip to the Communist-ruled Caribbean island during which he plans to meet President Fidel Castro, government officials, church leaders and human rights activists

Indonesia floods kill 13

JAKARTA (R) - Floods caused by torrential rain in Indonesia's West Java set off a landslide in which at least 13 people died and dozens of others were missing feared dead, police said Sunday. "We found 13 people killed in the landslide, and dozens more huried are feared dead," Major Hasan Gunadi said by telephone from Lebak district. Gunadi said the landslide occurred Friday in the foothills of Cisoka village. 80 kilometres west of Jakarta, after days of heavy

Floods kill over 20 in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Seasonal floods triggered by monsoon gales in Malaysia have killed more than 20 people and forced 20,000 people out of their homes, officials said Sunday. Malaysia's northeastern state of Kelantan, where most rivers had breached, danger levels, was the worst hit with at least 11 people killed and more than 14,000 evacuated, they said. "This is the worst flood in three years," Information Minister Mohammad Rahmat said, as the Meteorological Services Department predicted late Sunday that heavy rains would continue to pour over the peninsula at least until



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Baggio voted European Player of the Year

PARIS (AFP) — Roberto Baggio, star forward for Juventus and Italy, has been voted European player of the year by

France Football magazine.

The 26-year-old was named Player of the Year by FIFA. football's governing body, at last week's World Cup draw in Las Vegas.

He won the UEFA Cup with Juventos last season and scored five goals io Italy's World Cup qualifying cam-

paign.
He joined Juventus from Fiorentina for a then world record \$8 million in 1990 in a move which triggered riots in

Manchester City hope Xmas spending pays off

LONDON (AFP) - Manchester City manager Brian Horton gave himself a Christmas present by bringing in former Arsenal midfielder David

Rocastle from Leeds. Rocastle will make his debut away to Aston Villa Monday as chase only their second

win in 13 league games. But the bitter struggle for

control between consortiums

Lee and businessman Michael McDonald will probably stretch well into the new year. Everton are another famous club in trouble.

led by former player Francis

They may be better off in terms of points but they will probably start 1994 with no manager as their own boardroom battle rages on.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARF

THE GAME'S THE THING

in the suit by running it to the ten in the closed hand. West showed out on the second diamond, discarding a heart and, with only night tricks available, declarer had little choice but to set up the diamond suit. Declarer elected to concede a diamond immediately by ducking the eight to Rest's inch. OKQ9648 BAST ♦ X 10 7 6 ♥ J 9 7 4 East's jack.
East found the brilliant shift to 76 + Q982 SOUTH + Q952 QQ103

the jack of spaces. South's queen lost to the king, a space was re-turned to East's are and a space through declarer enabled the de-fenders to score four tricks in that

fenders to score four tricks in that suit. Down one.

A good rubber bridge player should make the hand by resorting to an early safety play. Since an extre trick in hearts or diamonds is unnecessary, declarer should win the first trick in dummy and immediately lead a low diamond. When East follows low, declarer inserts the eight. West wins, but the contract tan no longer be defeated. Even with a shift to a low spade, the best the defunders can do is score three spade tricks and a diamond. Decision realizes five dismond tricks, there is no longer by the world through dark glasses would adopt that line at duplicate. Besides the 4-1 break in the key soit, it takes a specific its of the spade suit, completed with first-rate defence, to stop at least nine tricks from rolling in at

at least nine tricks from rolling in at

at no trump.
West led a heart and declarer was delighted to make sure of four tricks

2 Chinese women revolutionise athletics

LONDON (R) - In eight tumultuous September days, two slight Chinese women revolutionised the sport of athletics and ignited a debate which was still raging at the year's

Wang Junxia was the first to astound the statisticians when she slashed 42 seconds off the world 10,000 mark at China's National Games in Beijing.

Three days later, Qu Yunxia broke the world 1.500 mark with Wang also running under the 13-year-old previous standard. Then it was Wang's turn again on the final day of the championships, this time taking 16 seconds off the 3.000 record.

In just over a week Wang and Qu proved they were the greatest women distance runners in history at an epochal meeting during which six different women clocked times under the previous world marks.

Not even the Chinese successes at the Stuttgart World Championships in the previous month, where they won all the women's track distance races. had prepared the world for this orgy of record breaking. But reaction was quick and vocifer-

The sceptics - including many of the world's elite

women athletes - accused the Chinese of using drugs. Parallels were drawn with East Germany and the Soviet Union where state-directed drug programmes were integral 10 sporting success.

Other respected authorities pointed instead to the renowned hardiness to Chinese peasant women and the phenomenal training loads imposed by Ma Junren, coach to both Wang and Ou.

The meeting came only days before the International Olympic Committee (IOC) voted on the site of the 2000 Olympics. with Beijing and Sydney the front-runners.

The opulent principality of Monte Carlo provided the appropriate venue for the climax of the most expensive bid campaign ever and in the end IOC delegates decided by just two votes to pass the sacred flame to Sydney for the first games of the 21st century.

Beijing was stunned. Sydney prompted started a party which threatened to last until the turn of the century. Still the Chinese had not

finished. In December they set 11 of the 15 women's records at the inaugural World Short-Course Swimming Cham-pionships in Palma De Mallorca, evoking memories of the

East German "wundermaedchen" who dominated women's swimming for a decade and a half.

The fourth World Athletics Championships were at least the equal of the previous three with Olympic champion Linford Christie successfully taking on the Americans for the second successive year to win the 100 metres.

Before the championships, Yobes Ondieki ran the first sub-27 minute 10,000 metres and afterwards Noureddine Morceli, who had to be persuaded to run in Stuttgart, took nearly two seconds of the world mile mark.

A traumatic year began deceptively brightly for Monica Seles when she won the Australian Open women's title while Jim Courier took the men's crown. Then in a spring tournament

in Hamburg a 38-year-old un-employed lathe operator, who claimed to be a supporter of Steffi Graf, leaped on the court and stabbed Seles in the back. The physical damage seemed moderate, the pyscho-

logical harm incalculable. Seles, a Serb who had already been the target of death threats from Croatians. did not play again and at the end of the year it was still

uncertain if she would defend her Australian title in January. Graf's pulverising forehand swent her to successive wins in the French. Wimbledon and U.S. Opens and with Martina

Navratilova showing her age At the age of 38, Alain Prost and planning to retire next year, the women's game badly needs a revitalised Seles back on track. Courier faded as the year advanced and fellow-American Pete Sampras finished as world

the Wimbledon and U.S. titles. Sampras may lack the appeal to John McEnroe or Jimmy Connors but his rocket-fueled serve, all-round skills and lithe athleticism bear comparison with any of the giants of the

number one, serving more

than 1.000 aces and winning

For one frozen moment on a bizarre Las Vegas night, Evan-der Holyfield thought he, like Seles, might fall victim to an unhinged stranger when a paraglider landed on the ropes midway through his world heavyweight title fight with Riddick Bowe.

Fortunately the intruder was unarmed and after a brief pummelling from outraged specta-tors be was hustled away and an action-packed bout resumed.

A coldly determined Holy-

field went on to become only the third man after Floyd Patterson and Muhammad Ali to regain the world title hy outpointing the bigger and heavier Bowe after a furious final three rounds.

won his fourth drivers' title one less than the great Argentine Juan Manuel Fangio and a record 51st individual Formula 1 race before bowing out of the sport. The cerebral Prost rarely ex-

cited but his technical skills were of the highest order. The Williams team, who will struggle to maintain their ascendancy once their high-technology drivers' aids are banned from the start of next season, will now feature Prost's great rival Ayrton Senna.

The 1992 champion Nigel Mansell, meanwhile, became the first man to follow a Formula 1 title with an Indy Car Championship.

The United States retained the Ryder Cup against Europe. although there was some conslolation for non-Americans in the consistent form of Nick Faldo, who remained top of the world golf rankings.

The Briton, though, could not win any of the four majors and the man who has already

painstakingly reshaped his. game was planning to streng-then his adding wrists and furth-er revamp his swing in the unending search for golfing . . perfection.

Faldo did contribute in full. measure to one of the great... British opens bur although he equalled the course record in the second round, he could not catch a triumchant Greg Norman, who finally harnessed consistency to his customary flamboyance to win by two strokes. The Zaminian World Cup

foreign-based players, died in a plane crash off Gabon in April but in an amazing side came within a point of qualifying for next year's finals in the United States. The Zambians needed to

soccer leam, minus their .-

draw only with Morocco to qualify but eventually succumbed 1-0.

There were upsets galore in European qualifying groups with former champions England, twice semilinalists France and European Champions Denmark all going out.

The biggest sporting scandal of 1993 involved European soccer champions Marseille, . who were stripped of the title following serious briberyallegations.

Brindabella charges out of Sydney Harbour

SYDNEY (R) - Race favourite Brindabella stamped her authority on the 49th Sydney-to-Hobart Sunday with a brilliant start which saw her charge out of Sydney Harbour six minutes ahead of pocket maxi Hammer of Queensland.

Tacking into the face of freshening 15 knot northeaster, 6-4 on favourite Brindabella took only 12 minutes to reach the heads and quicky hoisted a spinnaker to take advantage of the tail wind before strong southerly headwinds hit the fleet.

Weather forecasters predicted one of the toughest races ever, with gale force beadwinds up to 40-50 knots. "It doesn't look good. It

could be the worst Sydney-to-Hobart ever," said forecaster Rodger Badaman before the start. The worse race on record was in 1984 when one crewman was killed and 104 of the 150 boats retired.

now in its ninth Sydney-to-Hobart and rated only a 20-1 chance, performed excep-tionally well in the freshening headwind to pip Amazon, second favourite at 4-1, to be second out of the harbour.

C.H. and telephones.

garden, gatage for two cars.

Location: Umm Al Summaq.

Race officials and commentators said Hammer of Queensiand could perform very well in the demanding conditions.

Race veteran Ragamuffin was fourth out of the harbour after being forced to tack across to the southern shore where there was less breeze, leaving her lagging the race leaders.

However, once out into open ocean and with clean air, maxi Ragamuffin, with veteran skipper Syd Fischer at the helm, is expected to quickly catch ber newer rivals.

"We will hold our own with a spinnaker, but with the forecasts we will not be 'rowing' all that long. We will be reaching in a few hours," said crewman Richard Hammond, in his 35th Sydney-to-Hobart: Fifth was American sloop

Cassiopeia. Race commentators said

many of the smaller boats were well out to sea in an attempt to sail around the forecast bad

"It's a clockwise (low weathcr) system and may be they can go around the clock," said former America's Cup skipper

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Sir James Hardy. Such a course could see boats travelling 800 miles to reach Hobart, compared with the direct distance of 630

"The longevity of the southerly means they could get southerly in the first 12 hours, right through to when they enter into the Derwent River at Hobart," said Badaman. "Four or five days of southerly, that would be a record,"

he said. "The worst winds look likel bitting the fleet tomorrow and the day after." But George Snow, owner of race leader Brindabella, 22.9 metres, still believes he has a chance of breaking the 18-year race record as long as his new

boat gets a good northeasterly

Race sponsor Kodak is offering Australian dollars 100,000 (\$60,000) to the yacht breaking the record of two days 14 hours 36 minutes and maxi Ketch Kialoa in 1975.

Yachts tack for wind shifts during the start of the 49th Sydney to Hobart yacht race in Sydney Sunday (AFP photo) Brindabella, launched only

against the wind. honours in all six races in the

three months ago, took line bonours by 16 hours in its

seven race Southern Cross Cup Series last week. The Sydneyto-Hobart is the seventh race. The New South Wales 'A'

the New South Wales 'B'

inaugural outing, the 408 mile Gosford-to-Lord Howc, Team, led by last year's series winner Irish yacht Atara, is

Team, with the Australian team led by Ragamuffin in third.

Race officials said two . vachts. Team Fujitsu and Fast Forward, were forced to re-. starting line early

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Extension of Tender Invitation Period Tender No. 271/93 Logging Services

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Natural Resources Authority

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NOTICE **EXTENSION OF DEADLINE FOR TENDERS** FOR PURCHASING PREGNANT HEIFERS The Co-op Society for Cow Breeders

in Zarka Governorate Hereby announces the extension of the deadline for receiving lenders for the supply of pregnant heifers.

The new deadline is Jan. 12, Instead of Jan. 6, 94. Society Director (Agr. Engineer) Hussam Hamdan



★ New Spanish language courses

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☆ All levels.

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Circle. Daily, except Fridays and Sundays, and from 3:06

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Tel.: 677420 Ť. CONCORD 0 CONCORD "1" A SOMMERSBY D Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30

> CONCORD '2' BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Shows: 12:30, 3:00, 4:45, 6:30 Hi America Play, 8:30

Tel.: 699238 Cinema

bathroom, kitchen, balcony.

living room and verandas.

Price JD22,000 (negotiable).

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(ARABIC) Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 daily at 11:00 a.m. **HOME ALONE "2"**

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Demy Moore ... in

Nabil Al Mashini Theatrepresents a play entitled: **AL IIm Nuron**

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Nabil & Hisham's Tel.: 625155 ahlan Theatre

The political comedy Welcome arab summit

Daily 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes Saturday and Sunday English synopsis available

The Theatre will be closed from Dec. 24, 1993 until further notice.

pays for en Christmas 23 years later

or the

AAJ48 de se la la companya de la companya

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hopeless at duplicate. Here's an example of what we mean.

North-South bid well to reach an excellent three-no-trump contrast. Since South would probably have taken a diamond preference with three-card support over the reverse to two hearts. North gave up all thoughts of alam and raised to game at no trump.

Ahmad Zaki and Mahmoud Hamideh

THE BUTCHER'S WIFE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Clinton takes

part in family

snowball fight

WASHINGTON (R) - The

festive mood of the holiday

season bubbled over onto the

White House grounds late

Christmas night as the fire

family took aim at each other

with snowballs. President Bill

Clinton and his family had just

returned from the Will Rogers

Follies at the Kennedy Centre

for the Performing Arts when

playful bedlam crupted in front

of the south portice. With Sec.

ret Service agents looking on a bit nervously, the president, his brother, Roger, and a handful of others in the first

party indulged in the remnants

of the season's first snow in this

nation's capital. When last seen, a gleeful Mr. Clinton was

scooping up a wet snowball and with a left-handed deliv-

ery, hurling a high one over the

entrance's canopy. It landed with a splat on the driveway.

Toni Morrison's

house burns down

GRAND VIEW, New York

(AFP) - Nobel prize winner

River was destroyed and some

of the 1993 Nobel Prize win-

ner's manuscripts wery

burned, said Grand View Fire

Department Chief Paul Wana-

maker. Ms. Morrison also won

a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction with:

her novel Beloved. The cause

of the fire was under investiga-

Kidnapped

found in church

CHICAGO (AFP) - A new

mother is together with her

baby, after the kidnapped child was left in a church by a woman who had inquired about baving it baptised. "When I saw the mom hold up the kid

and cry, I teared up," said

officer Mike Healy, "Most of

the time, it's a bad ending. But

this time, it was a good or

ding." Crystal Guerrero, seve

months, was returned to he

parents, Jose and Maria Guer

rero Thursday after volunteer

at the Queen of Angels Church

discovered the baby on the

floor, and apprehended be

alleged kidnapper. She ha

been abducted on Dec. 16 by

woman at a public health clini

who had been seen asking

several new mothers if sh

could hold their infants.

woman carrying the child be

asked a priest about arranged a baptism Thursday and the

disappeared, said volunteer

who were decorating the

church for Christmas. Kather

ine Fearon, 14, said that short

ly after the woman left. she

found the baby sleeping on the

floor of the vestibule. The

teenager and her mother, Gail

recognised the infant as the

missiog child whose photo

graph had been in the news

paper and telephoned police Wheo she returned to the church, Gail Fearon saw

woman who had been holding

the baby talking to reporter

"I grabbed the woman at took her into the church.

said. Hortencia Hernande

28, of Chicago bas been charged with aggravated in napping, said police Sergen

Wildlife officers

killer crocodlles

BRISBANE, Australia (A)

— Officials plan to track down and relocate two crocoding

that killed a man as his w

and daughter watched ho

shore. Killing the animals believed to be a mating per would be against the law, so Sgt. Trevor Crawford Bamaga Police in North Australia. Police and wild a cofficiely will be the state of the state o

officials will begin to hand

the crocodiles Monday a hope to move them to an

far from humans. Cast Bond, 48, was attacked Fit while swimming out to be

passengers on a car ferry

had broken down in the

dine River in the Cape Yo Peninsula area. Mr. Crasse

to search for

Milton Carson.

newborn

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iranian official congratulates Majali

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday received a message from Iranian First Vice President Hassan Hubaibi, congratulating him on the vote of confidence won by his government early December. The message was delivered to Dr. Majali by the Iranian ambassador to Jordan, Ahmad Distmaljian, who visited the Prime Ministry Saturday. Dr. Majali and the Iranian ambassador discussed bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest. In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, following bis meeting with Dr. Majali, the Iranian ambassador said bilateral relations will be further enhanced through the dedication and keen interest of the Jordanian and Iranian leaderships. Mr. Distmaljian said Arab-Iranian relations are improving and stressed that Iran is interested in developing its relations with the Arab countries. He said that Iran, which has tremendous human and economic resources, can play a major role in establishing peace and stability in this region, through cooperation with Arab

Saraireh commends NAF projects

KARAK (Petra) — Director of the Social Development Department in Karak Governorate Ahmaö Al Saraireh Sunday stressed the importance of encouraging families benefitting from rehabilitation projects sponsored by the National Aid Fund (NAF) to launch small income-generating projects to increase their income. Mr. Saraireh commended the feasibility of such projects, saying they are beneficial to needy families in financial terms and in terms of providing job opportunities to these families.

Chinese trade delegation due for talks

AMMAN (Petra) - A Chinese commercial delegation. headed by director of the Chinese Council for promotion of International Trade, arrives here on Jan. 12 on a six-day visit for talks with senior Jordanian officials on means of developing bilateral relations. The volume of trade is currently in favour of China. Jordan imported JD 52 million worth of Chinese goods last year, while the Jordanian exports to China in 1991 totalled JD 32.5 million.

Party seeks ilcensing

AMMAN (Petra) - A new political party Saturday sought licence from the Ministry of Interior, to become the 22nd licensed political party. The party, known as the "Jordan Arab Constitutional Front," elected Milham Al Tal as Secretary General. The new party, which includes 65 founding members, was the first political organisation to call on all political powers in the country to wrok in accordance with the Jordanian Constitution. The front secretary general said the front first appeared as a political organisation in 1975.

National number can be obtained abroad

AMMAN (Petra) - Jordanians working or living abroad who bold family registration books can have the national registration numbers fixed to their books, through the Jordanian embassies in the countries where they live or work, according to Director General of the Passports and Civil Registration Department Nasouh Muhyeddin. The embassy concerned can send a photocopy of the family book to the Civil Registration Department to affix the national number. Once this is done, the photocopy with the national number is sent back to the embassy. Mr. Muhyeddin said any Jordanian living or working abroad can also have his passport of family registration book renewed through the embassy concerned. Jordanians wishing to get family registration books for the first time have to send their papers through the embassy which, in lurn, will send the passports to the Civil Registration Department for issuance.

Guerrilla attack kills civilian in Lebanon

MARJAYOUN (R) - One civilian was killed and two were wounded Sunday when guerrillas fired machineguns at a crossing in Israel's South Lebanon "security zone," security sources said. They said the Hamra passageway ioto the western sector of the enclave came under machinegua fire from guerrillas to the north as civilians were crossing. None of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen manning the crossing were hurt but three civilians were wounded and rushed to a hospital for United Nations peacekeepers at the frontier town of Naquora, the sources added. One of the civilians later died of his wounds at the hospital. No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

Kuwaiti court reopens Bush plot trial

KUWAIT (AP) - A verdict against 14 Iraqis and Kuwaitis charged with plotting to assassinate former President George Busb was postponed Saturday by a court seeking more evidence from a key witness, Judge Salah Al Fahad, president of the three-member state security court, said the tribunal wanted to reconvene Feb. 5 to further question Abdul Samad Al Shatti, the state security officer who headed the investigation. "There are points the court would like explained," Mr. Fahad said, adding only that the points pertained to "the role of the defendants in the case." No date was given for a new verdict. The court has been hearing the case since June 5.

Kuwait Islamists plan alcohol crackdown

KUWAIT (R) - Islamist MPs in Kuwait want to create a public authority to curb illicit trade and consumption of alcohol, a deputy said in remarks published Sunday. "No drinks, oo matter what the occasion," Mubarak Al Duwailah was quoted as saying by the English-language Kuwait Times. He said Islamist colleagues in the assembly were drafting a bill to set up a public authority against alcohol. "We are going to move the bill soon and I think it is going to pass without resistance," said Mr. Duwailah, of the Muslim fundamentalist Islamic Constitutional Movement. "We will then move to pressure the Interior Ministry into more vigilance." Alcohol bas long been banned in Kuwait but bottlegging, especially from southern Iraq, has survived the prohibition.

Colombo to expel Red Cross official

COLOMBO (AFP) - Sri Lanka is to expel an official of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for an alleged bid to smuggle banned items to the island's embattled north, the Sunday Times said here. The newspaper said the government would raise with the Geneva-based ICRC an incident in northern Vavuniya Thursday in which one of its foreign workers was held for alleged trying to smuggle batteries to rebel-held areas. The discussions with the ICRC would be "a prelude to this official being declared persona non grata and ordered to leave the country," the Sunday Times said. The newspaper identified the foreigner as Bernard, and gave no nationality.

Tamils to execute ex-leader for treason

COLOMBO (R) - A former high leader of Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels and 120 of his followers are likely to be executed next month for betraying the organisation, the Sunday Observer said. The newspaper said Gopalaswamy Mahendrarajah, former deputy leader of the guerrilla group Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, and 120 followers would be executed on Jan. 16 - first anniversary of the death of a Tamil rebel leader in an incident involving the Indian. The Sunday Observer, quoting informed sources in the north, said Tamil rehel Sathasiyam Krisbnakumar had been accompanying a consignment of rehel arms and ammunition in January when his ship was intercepted by the Indian navy. Refusing to surrender, Krishnakumar died and the ship and its cargo were destroyed m an explosion that he triggered.

IRA truce ends; peace chances cloudy

BELFAST (Agencies) -Northern Ireland counted down to the end of a three-day Irish Republican Army (IRA) truce at midnight and awaited the group's verdict on an Anglo-Irish peace package.

Irish Prime Minister Albert Reynolds appealed to the IRA in remarks published on Sunday to shelve its reservations about the plan, declare peace and work out the details later.

"Peace is the first and essential priority. We should not let ourselves be sidetracked into the many questions that will have to be solved in the future," he said.

"Everything else can be set-tled in detailed discussion or negotiation later." he wrote in the Belfast Sunday Life. His remarks were aimed at the IRA, which has waged a

violent campaign against Brit-

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Tele-

communication Corporation (TCC) collected JD 116 mil-

lion during the first II months of this year, according to the corporation's Director General

In a statment to the Jorda-

nian News Agency. Petra, Sun-

day, Mr. Nawawi said the cor-

poration will carry out the big-

gest investment project during the period 1994-1997: Under

the new project, which will cost JD 205 million. a total of

280,000 new telephone lines.

will he added. The corpora-

AMMAN - Jordao is now

affected by unstable climate

conditions which are expected

to last until the end of the

week, according to the Depart-

ment of Meteorology.

Department official Bassam

Dmour told the Jordan Times

that the unstable weather con-

ditions were caused by a huge

depression, centred over

Europe, which prevented cold

air from reaching the countries of the eastern Meditestanean

region, and was the cause for the little rain this season.

Mr. Dmour said that a slight

deep in temperatures will take

place and clouds will build up

By Rana Husseini

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN - Seven people

died in separate accidents in

the Kingdom during the holi-

On Friday, in Amman, a

30-year-old man was killed

when his car lost balance and

rolled over. The man was

taken by the civil defence to

the hospital where he died.

The traffic official who investi-

gated the accident attributed the accident to a malfunction

of the car's back wheel bear-

ings, according to a police re-

A 10-year-old girl was

rushed to Al Bashir Hospital

Friday, after being bit by a car driven by a man identified only

as MSA, 64, where she died

later as a result of ber wounds.

A police report indicates

that the girl, identified as

MAH, was crossing the street with her mother, 45, when they got hit by MSA. Hospital re-

ports indicate that the mother

is in a serious condition. Police

In Irbid, Civil Defence offi-

cials pulled the body of a 31-

vear-old man from a cesspool

Friday. The father of the vic-

tim told police he was looking

for his son, who was mentally

sick, in the house but was

unable to find him. The father

went to the front vard to search

for his son and found the lid of

the cesspool open. The father

called the Civil Defence who

came and pulled out the body

On Saturday, a 39-year-old

man was killed in a traffic

accident in Al Sukhneh Street.

AAH was killed instantly

when his car collided with two

other cars, one driven by

WAM, 39, and another driven

by FM, 21. Drivers of all three

cars were carried to the hospir-

al where the two survivors are

reported in bad condition. The

traffic officials attribute the

accident to dangerous overtak-

ing by the driver AAH who

Meanwhile, in Kafranga

crossing, north of Amman, a

21-year-old man was killed

when his car rolled over be-

cause of speeding, according to

a police report. Three other

A 57-year-old man was kil-

led when his car collided with a

tanker on Muqat highway, be-

passengers were injured.

was killed in the accident.

of KAH.

east of Amman.

have arrested the driver.

day weekend.

port.

Seven killed in

weekend accidents

dent.

Unstable weather

conditions this week

Ahmad Al Nawawi.

ish rule in Northern Ireland for the past 25 years, and its political wing, Sinn Fein, which has given the package a cool

response. The IRA's customary threeday Christmas truce ended at midnight (GMT) on Sunday when security forces will be back on alert against bombings and snipings which accounted for 14 of the province's 83 guerrilla-related deaths in

But republican sources said Sinn Fein was unlikely to endorse the package or press the IRA to end its war until it had wrung concessions out of the British and Irish governments.

They said they could not rule out more attacks as Sinn Fein and the IRA leadership weigh the next moves in its campaign for the unification of Northern Ireland with the Ireland.

tion. Saturday. Dec. 25 started

work on a new telephone ex-

tension under which 13.000

new lines will be put into op-

eration. The new telephone

lines will cover 26 areas in

The extension comes in re-

sponse to the increasing de-

mands for telephone lines in

Amman outskirts. Mr. Nawawi

said Wadi Seer and Marka will

have each 5,000 lines. while

the remaining 3,000 lines will be added to Sweileh telephone

exchange.

He said that new telephone

gradually causing rain showers

to fall over the entire King-

He added that in the Gulf of

Aqaba it will be partly cloudy.

showers

millimetres.

with a chance of scattered

Mr. Dmour said the temper-

atures will remain above aver-

age, with 18 degrees centigrade

at day time, dropping to 7

areas of the Ringdon Thursday, the largest amount in Al

Sagreiat which received 4 mil-

limetres of water and the least

in Safawi, which received 0.1

tween Amman and Baghdad.

Three other people were in-

jured. Traffic officials said

SWZ took the wrong exit

which caused the deadly acci-

after being run over by his

AHM removed a stone placed

under one of the wheels and

the car ran over him, killing

Drugs seized

The Forgery and Anti-

Narcotic Department (FAND)

seized more than 357,750 cap-

tagon pills Sunday in a smug-

gling attempt involving Jordan

as a transit point, according to

a Petra report.
According to Colonel

Hisham Nsour, director of

FAND, the department re-

ceived information of a possi-

ble smuggling attempt of drugs

that would be hidden in a

Turkish passenger bus, travell-

ing to another Arab country.
Col. Nsour maintained that

the department closely moni-

tored the movement of the bus

that was due to enter the King-

dom and seized the pills in Al

Two people were arrested, a

Jordanian and an Arab whose

citizenship was not identified.

Preliminary investigations by FAND officials indicate that

the Arab man was going to

deliver the shipment while the

Jordanian was supposed to

store the drugs, until they were

to be transferred to a Gulf

Body found

Civil Defence officers Thurs-

day recovered the body of the

four-year-old girl that was re-

portedly trapped in her fami-

lyscar in Wadi Al Arab dam.

The body of Anfal Labab-

neh was washed ashore Thurs-

day, 14 days after the accident.

according to Captain Abdul

Raouf Maaita. Director of

Public Relations at the Civil

Anfal, along with her two sisters Sanaa, 8, and Baraa, 6

were left alone in the car while

their parents went for a walk.

The car slid into the dam when

its handbrake was released.

probably by the children.

Defence Department.

Friday. Dec. 14.

Mafrag.

Police reports indicate that

father's pick-up truck.

him instantaneously.

14-year-old-boy was killed

Slight rain fell in different

degrees centigrade at night.

TCC collects JD 116m in first 11 months of 1993

Amman governorate.

Both London and Dublin have rejected the prospect of talks with Sinn Fein in connection with the Dec. 15 deal, known as the Downing Street Dec-laration after British Prime Minister John Major's official London residence, but the sources said Sinn Fein was hoping to cash in on signs that the Irish government might be

more pliable than Britain. The Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), one of the main Protestant paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland, has given its approval 10 the Anglo-Irish declaration on the province and is ready to halt its campaign of violence. the Sunday Times

reported. The Sunday Times based its report on an interview with Billy Giles. a 56-year-old prisoner who said he was speaking for all the 93 members of the

lines were connected to new

subscribers in Wadi Seer area

Saturday, according to the

dates of applying for the tele-phone service. He added that

new telephones 10 subscribers

covered by Marka and Sweileh

will be connected as of Satur-

The Cabinet decided in

September 10 increase the

number of telephone lines con-

nected to these three ex-

changes to meet the rising de-

mand for the telephone ser-

Rival Afghan

forces agree

to local truce

KABUL (Agencies) - Rival

forces of Afghan President

Burhanuddin Rahbani and

Prime Minister Gulhuddin

Hekmatyar have agreed to

stop fighting in castern Taguh

district, it was unnounced here

A newly former multi-party

commission obtained the con-

sent of the rival party leaders

to end the two-manth-long fighting from Monday illorn-

ing. Mr. Hekmatyar's deputy

Qazi Amin Waqaad tnld a

lows a series of earlier accords

which failed to hold between

the heavily armed Afghan fac-

following the collapse of the

14-year-old communist regime

While Mr. Waqaad was speaking at Rabul's Gul Khana

Palace, a rocket exploded in-

side the presidential palace.

killing two soldiers, but he was

said. "We have no choice hut

to continue our mission and

impose peace even if our deci-

skin is violated a hundred

kilometres east of Kahul.

erupted two months ago. It

involved forces of Mr. Hek-

matyar and Former Defence

Minister Ahmad Shah

Masoud, who is allied with Mr.

Both sides have used heavy

weapons and government jets

have pounded Mr. Hckmaty-

ar's hases, mainly in the east-

The fighting in Tagoh. 70

"We have to carry on." he

ons which took over Kahul

The proposed ceasefire fol-

press conference.

in April 1992.

undeicrred.

times.

Rabbani.

ern region.

Sunday.

day. Jan. I.

UVF in jail.
Mr. Giles. who was on a temporary release from jail over Christmas, said the declaration by the British and Irish governments on Northern Ireland was "fair."

'The guys in jail have looked at this document and the feeling is that there is nothing in there when is worth killing people for." he said. "We are quite happy with what we see, and I think the provisionals are pushed in a cor-

But he warned that this "is not going to make us lay down our arms right away. The ball is now in their court." he said referring to the IRA.

The Ulster Freedom Fighters, considered by police to be one of the most dangerous of the Protestant paramilitaries. has adopted a cautious attitude Times said, adding that its members were still holding dis-

cussions on the agreement.

Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Major closed ranks around the declaration last week but the

sources said they appeared out

of step at times. Mr. Major has ruled out Sinn Fein calls for an amnesty for about 700 JRA prisoners who bave been jailed for security offences.

But statements by Mr. Reynolds and his foreign minister, Dick Spring, have given Sinn Fein hope that there might be room for manocuvre.

Mr. Spring told reporters last week that the issue of prisoners was something that might be broached "down the line," and after Sinn Fein had used its influence to get the IRA to end the war.

Landslide kills 15, injures 62 in Oran

ALGIERS (Agencies) — A landslide killed 15 people and injured 52 others, including 21 children, when the slide level-. led about 130 houses in a working-class district of Oran in western Algeria, rescue workers said Sunday.

Rescue workers were trying to free several people still trap-ped in the rubble following Saturday night's disaster, but were having to use light tools because of the fragility of the ground.

Officials said some of the wrecked dwellings in the Rais Al 'Ain district had been builtwithout the authorisation of the local authorities.

By midafternoon on Sunday rescue workers had unearthed 15 people crushed to death under the rubble while 62 including 21 children - had been sent to hospital for treatment.

Ten people remained buried, state radio reported. Earlier, an official at Oran's main hospital told Reuters 17

had been killed according to its preliminary count.

State radio said dozens of houses were ripped apart by the landslide, leaving many families in Ras Al 'Ain homeless or in the care of emergency services.

"In total 130 houses were

The radio quoted a rescue official as saying that digging people out was very difficult

collapse," the official said.

4 dead, 119 injured

DAVAO CITY, the Philippines (Agencies) - Three powerful explosions ripped through the San Pedro Cathedral in this southern Philippine City Sunday during a packed post-Christmas mass, killing at least four people and wound-

police said. Police said the explosions, which occurred almost simultaneously at about 6:20 p.m. (1020 GMT). caused pandemonium among some 3,000 Roman Catholics present. Some of those hurt were in-

A fourthexplosive device was found beside a pew near the altar and was detonated by

Davao Police Chief Super intendent Rogelio Abaday said that four people were killed. including 15-year-old Rachel Lu who died on the spot, and that 119 others were wounded. many seriously. He declined to comment on the suspects or

any possible motive. Davao City is about 960

the country's second largest island.

"I have no idea what the motives are but it is an inhuman act," he told a Manila radio station. He said he saw two people killed on the spot. one of whom he carried to the hospital.

Typhoon strikes

At least seven people were missing and J2,000 others and heavy rain, officials said.

Neil ravaged Surigao Del Sur province with winds gusting up to 150 kilometres per hour en route for the northern tip of the country's main southern island of Mindanao, the Manila weather bureau said.

Toni Morrison's country house burned down Saturday in a fire swept away," the radio said. "Ten people are still buried that also claimed some of the novelist's manuscripts. About under the rubble now although 120 firefighters battled the a couple and a child were dug blaze, but the four-storey coloout a few hours after the landnial house near the Hudson

because of the brittle terrain and a heavy wind. "We have cranes... but we can't use them because if we do we risk having more houses

Local residents described Ras Al 'Ain as a poor neighbourhood made up of somewhat ramshackle buildings. State radio quoted one resident as saying the area was hit by a landslide last year.

in Davao church blasts is the largest city in Mindanao,

ing more than 100 others,

jured in the stampede.

bomb experts.

kilometres south of Manila and

he saw two of the grenades thrown by an assailant standing in the back of the cathedral as he was saying the offertory.

made homeless in one province as Typhoon Nell tore across the southern Philippines Sunday, packing gale-force winds

PLO employees await payment most."

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Activists on the payroll of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are hopeful that a partial payment of their outstanding wages would be made this week.

Several dozen Palestinians. some of them saying they were members of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) stationed in Iraq and others who said they were activists of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fateb group, staged a demonstration at the embassy of Palestine here last week demanding back pay.

"We were told that the PLO had transferred funds to . settle our dues," one of the protesters, who identified himself as a Fatch activist. said Sunday. "We are waiting for confirmation of the transfer as soon as the banks reopen Monday. PLO officials confirmed

that they had been advised by the PLO headquarters in Tunis that funds to pay some of the outstanding dues were

transferred to Amman. . They declined to reveal the amount involved, but said it should be enough to cover three months of salaries, "for

The protesters have said that most of them were owed six months' salaries, but they were willing to accept a compromise of three months' pay now and the remainder to be paid at a later date. "It is better than nothing

and empty promises," said the Fateh activist who said the protesters were ready to "widen their action" if no payment was made this week. We are fed up with being told to wait." said the activist. "We have families to feed. It is totally unfair on the part of the leadership to abandon us like this."

"We were planning wider action last week, but are now holding off. awaiting the funds to reach Amman to he paid to us." he added. "If there is no payment this week, then we reserve the right to take whatever action is necessary." He did not elaborate.

PLO sources said the decision to transfer funds appeared to have been prompted by increasing signs that Fateh was losing out to rival groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, particularly at a time when Mr. Arafat needed Palestinian support to press ahead with the implementation of the Sept. 13

autonomy accord with Israel. According to PLO sources, Mr. Arafat, facing a financial crunch after the Gulf Arab states cut off aid to the PLO following the organisation's titl towards Iraq during the Gulf crisis, was holding off "everything but essential payments.

Held back in the bargain were also payments to staff at many PLO missions abroad, triggering a wave of protest reaching the Tunis headquarters, they said.

'Many PLO leaders believe that the progress made in reaching an agreement with Israel as represented in the Sept. I3 accord has pushed aside all other issues," said a PLO source, "Obviously they are focusing on their 'real constituency' in the occupied territories, but this could backfire,"

The PLO cut down drastically on payments to families of "martyrs" and wounded in the six-year-old intifada and suspended health insorance for PLO employees at several missions since early this year.

In some missions, employees were told to look for other jobs while the PLO would consider their demands for compensation for decades of services, PLO sources said.

said it appeared that a me crocodile dragged Bonds water. "The bite marks on he indicate indicate it was a wer all croccodile." he said The croccodile mating season we makes them more likely attack, officials said. It was to first fatal crocodile attack the remote region on Applia's northeast tip sine!

هكذا حدن القصل